An usual day at Jshoujo's palace.
I WANT MORE MANGA
SHUT UP AND WAIT
WHY ARE YOU TAKING SO LONG?
IT'S A LEECHER
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
JSHOUJO SCANS NEEDS YOU!
WE NEED STAFF!
WHY DON'T THEY HELP US? BY JOINING US OR GETTING OTHERS TO?
Visit our website at manga-taira.it

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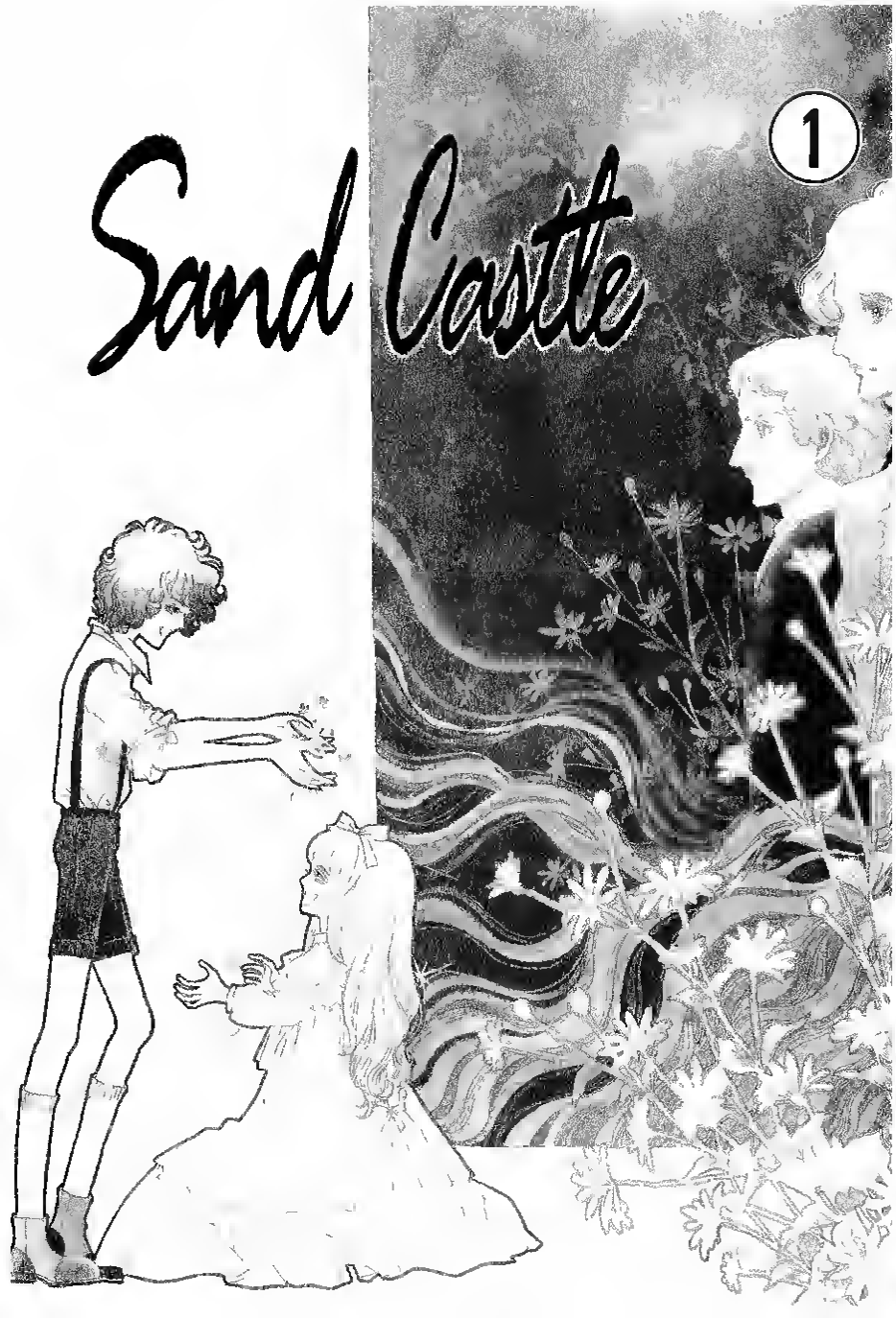
Thanks for reading!

The Stage Storm team

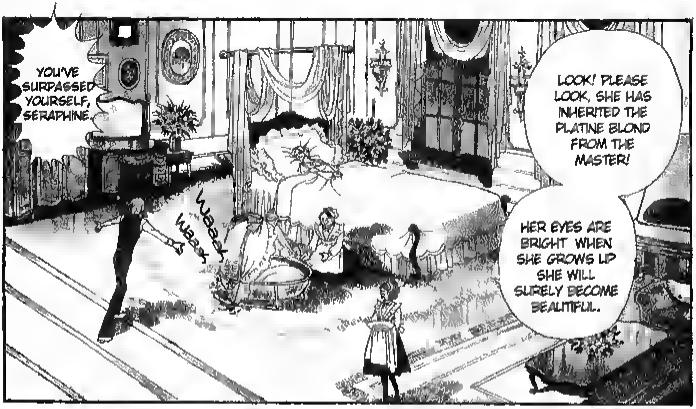
Y...r 1944, France, spring.
In the Lorne family, the eldest daughter gave birth to a child.
MASTER!
MASTER!
PLEASE COME IN!
IT'S A GIRL!

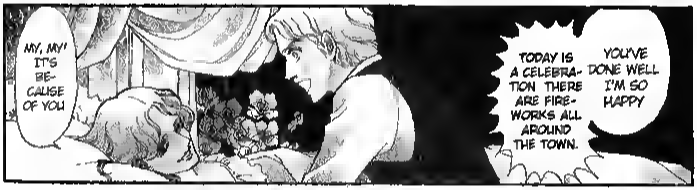
Sand Castle

1

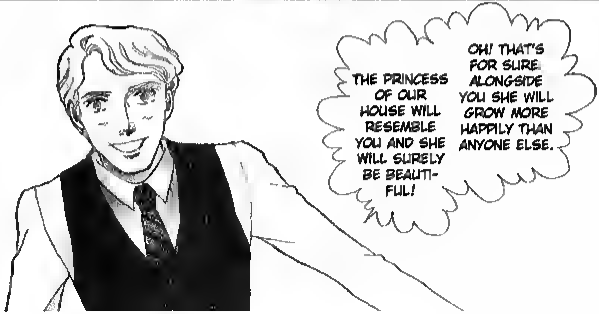


Yukari Ichijo


YOU'VE SURPASSED YOURSELF, SERAPHINE.
LOOK! PLEASE LOOK, SHE HAS INHERITED THE PLATINE BLOND FROM THE MASTER!
HER EYES ARE BRIGHT WHEN SHE GROWS UP SHE WILL SURELY BECOME BEAUTIFUL.
WAAH
WAAH


MY, MY! IT'S BE-CAUSE OF YOU
TODAY IS A CELEBRA-TION THERE ARE FIRE-WORKS ALL AROUND THE TOWN.
YOU'VE DONE WELL I'M SO HAPPY

SHE WILL GROW UP HAPPILY
NATHALIE... NATHALIE LORME IS A NICE NAME
BECAUSE IT'S A GIRL, LET'S CALL HER NA-THALIE


THE PRINCESS OF OUR HOUSE WILL RESEMBLE YOU AND SHE WILL SURELY BE BEAUTI-FUL!
OH! THAT'S FOR SURE. ALONGSIDE YOU SHE WILL GROW MORE HAPPILY THAN ANYONE ELSE.

4 year old Francis d'Auberge was thrown in front of the Lorme's house today.
MY, MY ! YOU INTEND TO MAKE NATHALIE AN OLD MAID.
SHE'LL BECOME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE TOWN, AND SHE WILL HAVE LOTS OF SUITORS AND WILL TURN THEM DOWN DREADFULLY.
HOWEVER, BEING A BRIDE AND THINGS LIKE THAT WON'T BE FOR HER. SHE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT LADY AND SHALL NOT RELY ON STRANGERS
I'M SORRY ...
DO I?
WELL THEN, I'LL BE CONSIDERATE FROM NOW ON.
REALLY, YOU'RE QUICK MINDED.
HOHOHOHOHO

TO BE HONEST, YOU WOULD NORMALLY HAVE GONE TO AN ORPHANAGE, BUT BECAUSE TODAY IS THE HAPPY DAY NATHALIE WAS BORN...
LOOK! GREET THEM, BECAUSE FROM NOW ON THEY ARE GOING TO BE YOUR MASTERS
THIS WAY, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU
Waah, Waaah
YOU'LL LOVE HER, WILL YOU NOT?
HER NAME IS NATHALIE
YES BECAUSE SHE WAS BORN TODAY!
SHE'S SO LITTLE!
IF SHE'S TEASED BY BOYS, I'LL BEAT THEM!
YES!
I'LL PLAY WITH HER EVERY DAY!

FRAN-CIS!
FRANCIS! WHERE ARE YOU? I HAVE AN ERRAND FOR YOU!
HE'S HOPE-LESS
HE'S GONE OUT AGAIN TO PLAY WITH THE YOUNG LADY
YOU HAVE TO GO OUT ON AN ERRAND. CECILE IS CALLING YOU
FRANCIS, YOU HAVE TO RETURN!
NATHALIE WILL GO WITH YOU!

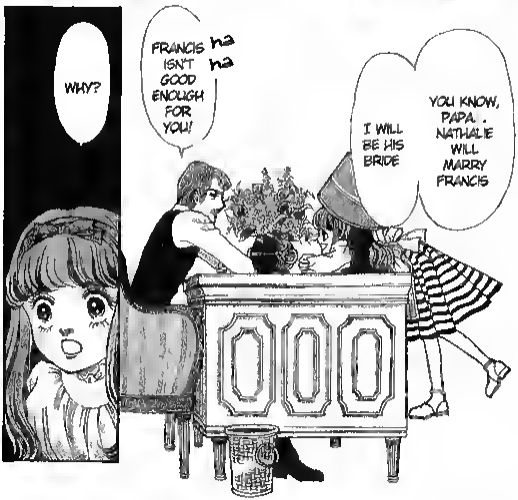
NO WAY, NATHALIE!
YOUNG LADIES DON'T GO ON ERRANDS!
NO!!
NATHALIE WANTS TO GO WITH FRANCIS!!
NATHALIE WANTS TO GIVE UP BEING A YOUNG LADY!
ho ho
THEY REALLY HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP! BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GOOD TIME PLAYING HE DOESN'T SUFFER BECAUSE OF THE WORK.
THAT IS TRUE! REALLY, FRANCIS IS A GOOD CHILD, MADAM!

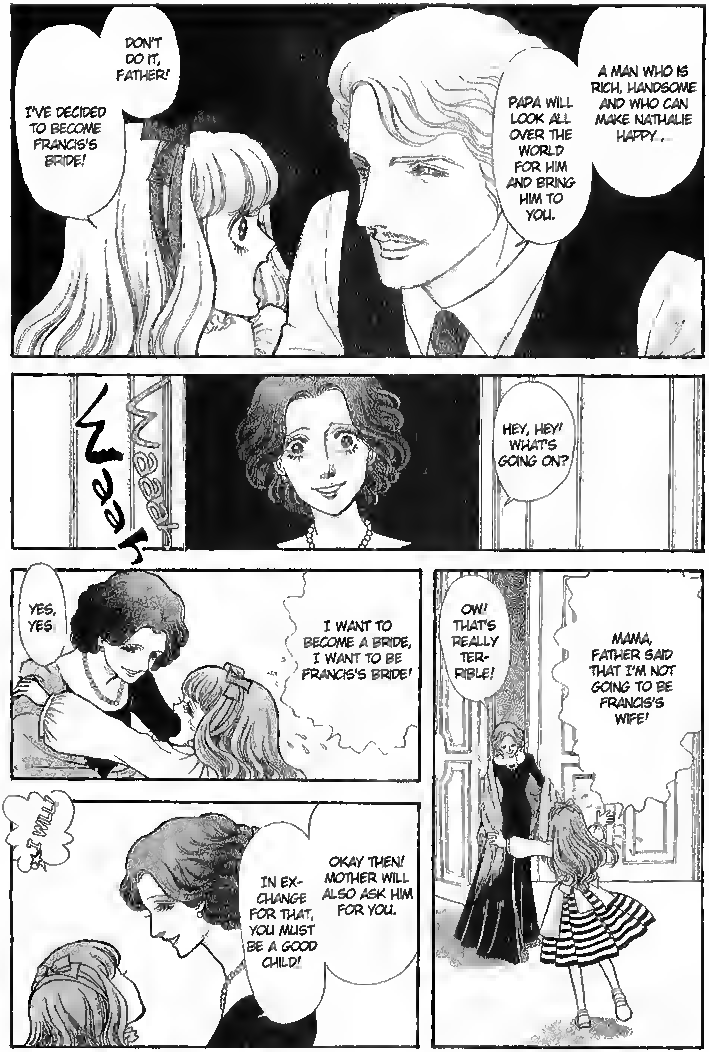
HE'S GONE TO SEND A LETTER FOR ME
SHOW ME WHAT KIND OF BOOK YOU'RE READING
DO YOU KNOW WHERE FRANCIS IS?
I WAS GOING TO ASK HIM TO READ ME A BOOK, BUT HE ISN'T HERE

FATHER!

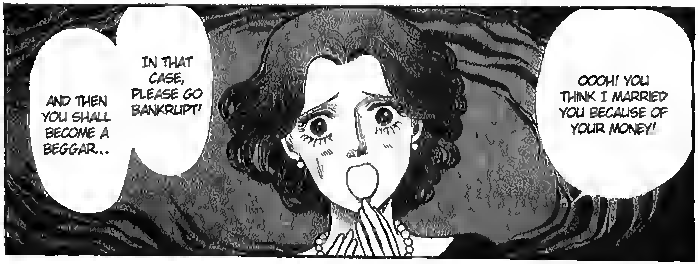
THE PRINCE IN THE STORY IS JUST LIKE FRANCIS
IT'S A STORY ABOUT A PRINCESS AND A PRINCE GETTING MARRIED

FRANCIS WON'T DO FOR YOU BECAUSE HE'S NOT A PRINCE
FATHER WILL LOOK FOR THE FINEST PRINCE IN FRANCE FOR NATHALIE.


WHY?
FRANCIS ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU!
ha ha
I WILL BE HIS BRIDE
YOU KNOW, PAPA. . NATHALIE WILL MARRY FRANCIS


A MAN WHO IS RICH, HANDSOME AND WHO CAN MAKE NATHALIE HAPPY.
PAPA WILL LOOK ALL OVER THE WORLD FOR HIM AND BRING HIM TO YOU.
DON'T DO IT, FATHER!
I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME FRANCIS'S BRIDE!
HEY, HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?
Waaa!
Wail
MAMA, FATHER SAID THAT I'M NOT GOING TO BE FRANCIS'S WIFE!
OW! THAT'S REALLY TER-RIBLE!
I WANT TO BECOME A BRIDE, I WANT TO BE FRANCIS'S BRIDE!
YES, YES!
OKAY THEN! MOTHER WILL ALSO ASK HIM FOR YOU.
IN EX-CHANGE FOR THAT, YOU MUST BE A GOOD CHILD!
I WILL!

HOW EM-BARRASSING!
DARLING, IT WAS ONLY A CHILD'S WORDS
HOWEVER, EVEN IF SHE DOES WANT THAT IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT, WOULDN'T IT?
FRANCIS IS A GOOD BOY
THAT MAY BE SO
HIS SCHOOL REPORTS ARE GOOD, THE TEACHERS ALSO HAVE A HIGH CONSIDERATION FOR HIM.
HOWEVER I WOULD LIKE NATHALIE TO MARRY A SUITABLE MAN
OH! DO YOU INTEND TO MAKE NATHALIE AN OLD MAID?
DARLING, THAT IS STILL A LONG WAY AWAY
WHEN THE TIME COMES, NATHALIE WILL MAKE HER DECISION PROPERLY.
THE HAPPINESS OF A WOMAN IS TO BE TOGETHER WITH HER BELOVED MAN
I'M LIKE THAT, THERE IS NO MISTAKE
SO IT IS I HAVE OFFERED YOU A LIFE WITH NO DISCOMFORT.


OOOH! YOU THINK I MARRIED YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR MONEY!
IN THAT CASE, PLEASE GO BANKRUPT!
AND THEN YOU SHALL BECOME A BEGGAR...

EVEN SO I WOULD STAY BY YOUR SIDE.

HEY! HEY! SERAPHINE!
AND LET YOU LOSE YOUR INFLUENCE ALSO...
LET YOUR EYES LOSE THEIR SIGHT,

EVEN SO...

I WANT MY NATHALIE TO GROW UP IN HAPPINESS
AND TO CATCH COUNTLESS HAPPINESSES FOR YOU.

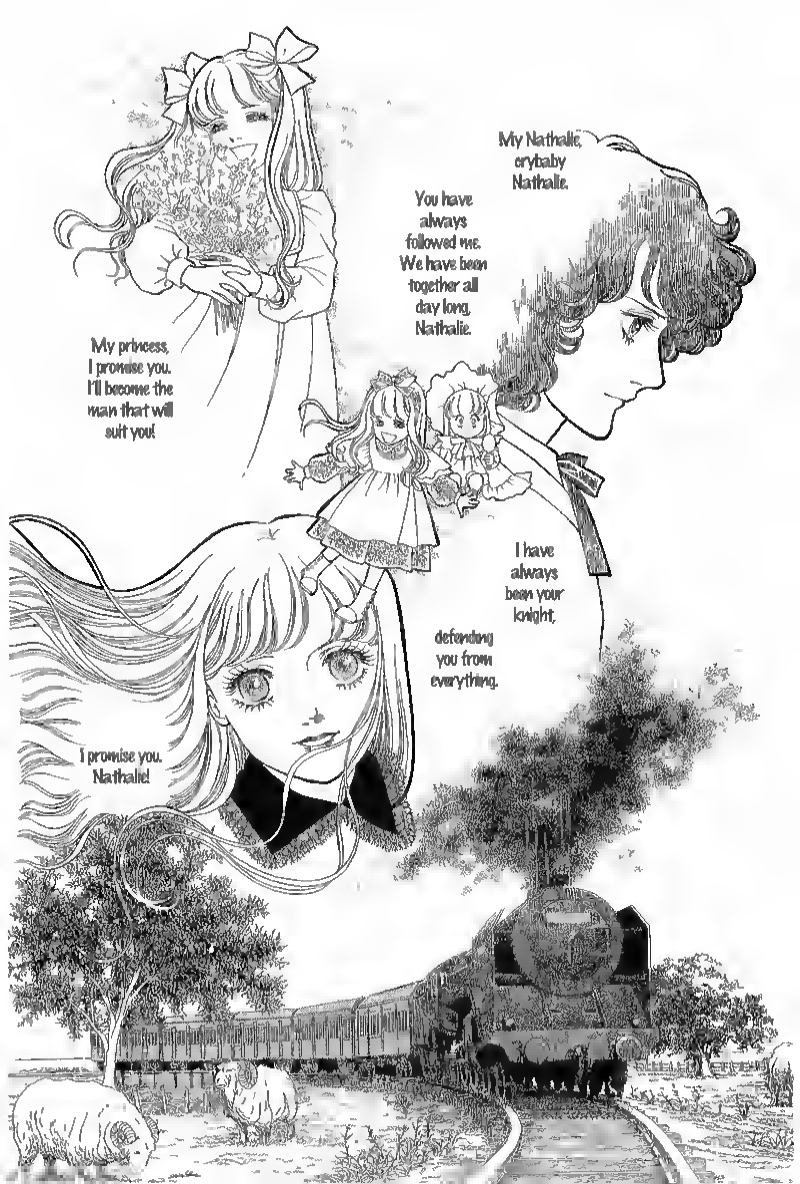
Punch
FRANCIS! ROGER!
STOP!
FRAN-CIS!
FRANCIS, YOU'LL GET HURT!
HA HA. I'LL SAY IT AGAIN AS MUCH AS WHY IS IT I WANT. THAT YOU ARE SO IMPERTI-NENT IN SPITE OF BEING A FOUND CHILD?
BECAUSE I WAS CHOSEN BY THE CHAIRMAN YOU SAY THESE FILTHY WORDS AND STILL CALL YOURSELF A MAN?
TRY TO SAY IT AGAIN!
IT WOULD SUIT YOU BETTER TO CLEAN THE PIGSTY
THE THOUGHT THAT YOU ARE SUITED FOR NA-THALIE IS RIDICU-LOUS
IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE FROM AND WHO YOU ARE, YOU ARE A LOUDMOUTH

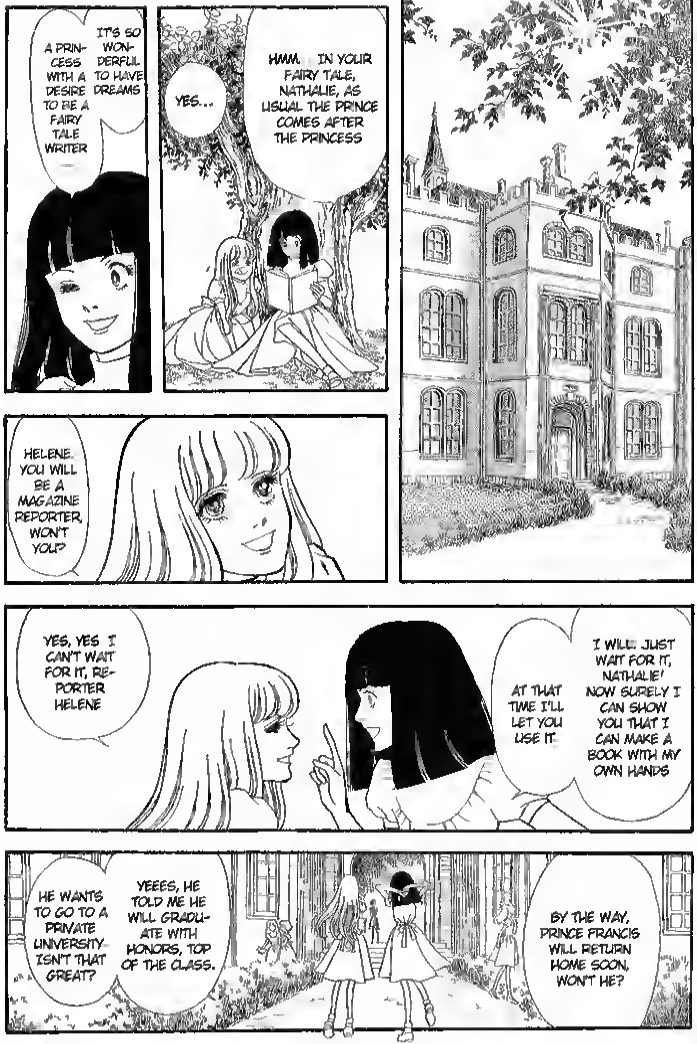
F... FRAN-CIS!
sob sob
Me, an orphan...
am I suited for Nathalie?
tumble
HE SAID SUCH AWFUL THINGS TO YOU!
I... I HATE ROGER SO MUCH!
To see him now! I would like to face him now!
Damn him! That guy! That guy!

IT MORTIFIES YOU, DOESN'T IT FRANCIS?
YES.
IT PROBABLY DOES, BUT WHAT THAT KID SAID ISN'T A LIE
YOU ARE A FOUNDLING THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING. NO PARENTS, NO STATUS, NO PRESTIGE, NO FORTUNE
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT THIS HANDICAP?
WOULD YOU EVEN GO TO UNIVERSITY, FRANCIS?
IF YOU WANT TO GO, I WILL HELP YOU ENTER A HIGH LEVEL UNIVERSITY. AS YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT ALL BY YOURSELF
IN EXCHANGE YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COME BACK HOME FOR THREE YEARS.
YOU WILL DEVOTE YOURSELF TO STUDYING

LISTEN FRANCIS, IF YOU ARE A MAN, GO AND TRIUMPH OVER THOSE GUYS!
THE WORLD IS CHANGING RAPIDLY! FROM NOW ON THE MECHANIZATION IS INCREASINGLY MAKING PROGRESS!
WHAT IS NECESSARY IS KNOWLEDGE, AND TO MAKE USE OF THAT YOU NEED TALENT AND EDUCATION
IF YOU WANT TO RISE ABOVE PEOPLE, YOU HAVE TO GAIN THAT POWER.
DID YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I TOLD YOU, FRANCIS?
LIFE ISN'T EASY!
NATHALIE IS MY TREASURE
IF YOU THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT HER, TAKE MY WORDS INTO CONSIDERATION!
BECOME THE MAN THAT WILL SUIT NATHALIE!
YES!

FRANCIS! FRANCIS!
WHY ARE YOU LEAVING? I'LL BE SO LONELY! I'LL BE LONESOME!
FRANCIS, DON'T GO AWAY!
Waah
Waah
I'LL WRITE YOU LETTERS
I'LL WRITE YOU EVERY DAY!
DON'T CRY, NATHALIE!
THREE YEARS WILL PASS BY QUICKLY
BY THAT TIME YOU'LL BE FIFTEEN.
SURELY YOU'LL BE BEAUTIFUL.
Woo-hoo


My princess, I promise you. I'll become the man that will suit you!
My Nathalie, crybaby Nathalie.
You have always followed me. We have been together all day long, Nathalie.
I have always been your knight,
defending you from everything.
I promise you. Nathalie!


A PRINCESS WITH A DESIRE TO BE A FAIRY TALE WRITER
IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO HAVE DREAMS
YES...
HMM... IN YOUR FAIRY TALE, NATHALIE, AS USUAL THE PRINCE COMES AFTER THE PRINCESS
HELENE, YOU WILL BE A MAGAZINE REPORTER, WON'T YOU?
YES, YES I CAN'T WAIT FOR IT, REPORTER HELENE
AT THAT TIME I'LL LET YOU USE IT
I WILL! JUST WAIT FOR IT, NATHALIE! NOW SURELY I CAN SHOW YOU THAT I CAN MAKE A BOOK WITH MY OWN HANDS
HE WANTS TO GO TO A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY. ISN'T THAT GREAT?
YEEES, HE TOLD ME HE WILL GRADUATE WITH HONORS, TOP OF THE CLASS.
BY THE WAY, PRINCE FRANCIS WILL RETURN HOME SOON, WON'T HE?

My beloved Francis, the summer holiday is coming, and I wait for it breathlessly

I have learned to bake a pie for you and I want to you to taste it soon.

YOU'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE YOU WERE BORN, AND YET YOU DIDN'T GET TIRED OF EACH OTHER.

Mother and father are waiting to meet you, Francis; surely you must be handsome.

THEN, BIG BROTHER, YOU DON'T THINK THAT OUR FORTUNE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS?

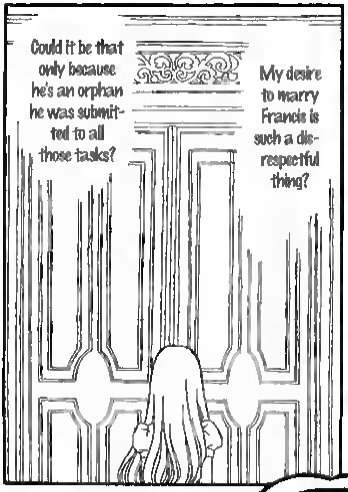
AND SERAPHINE ALSO SAYS THAT A WOMAN'S HAPPINESS CONSISTS IN LIVING TOGETHER WITH HER BELOVED MAN

IT CAN'T BE HELPED MARIA THAT IS NATHALIE'S KNACK.

My

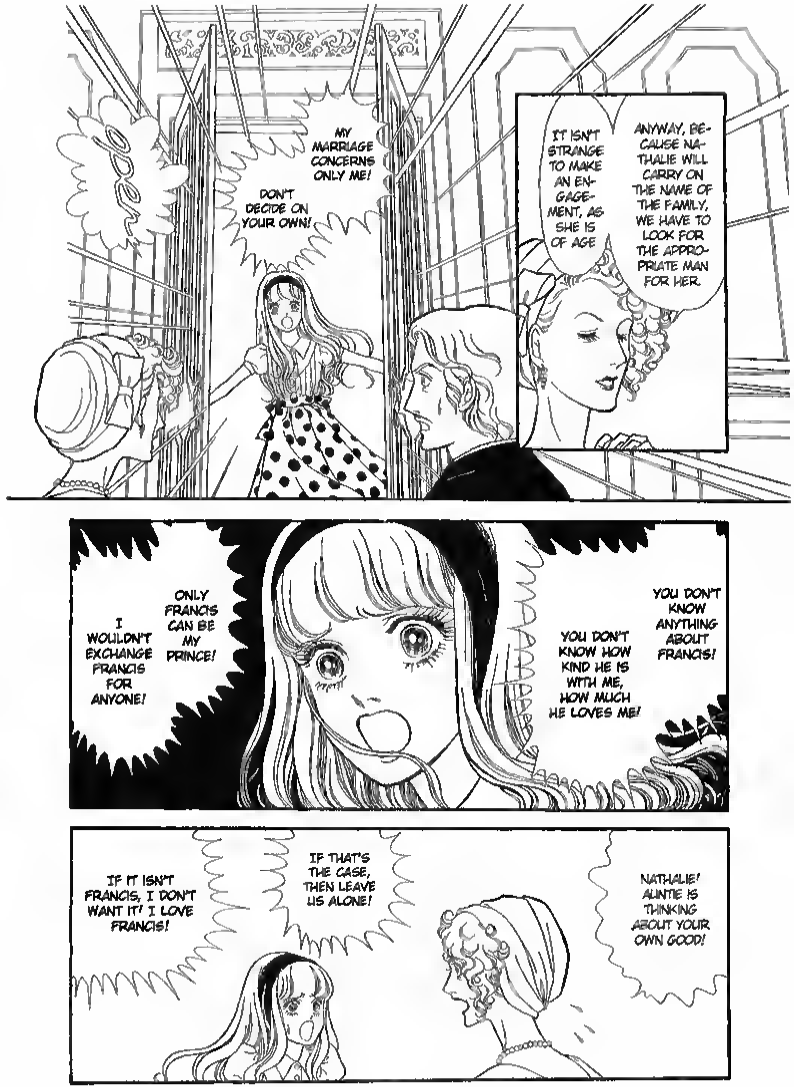
BIG BROTHER, YOU INTEND TO UNITE HER WITH FRANCIS

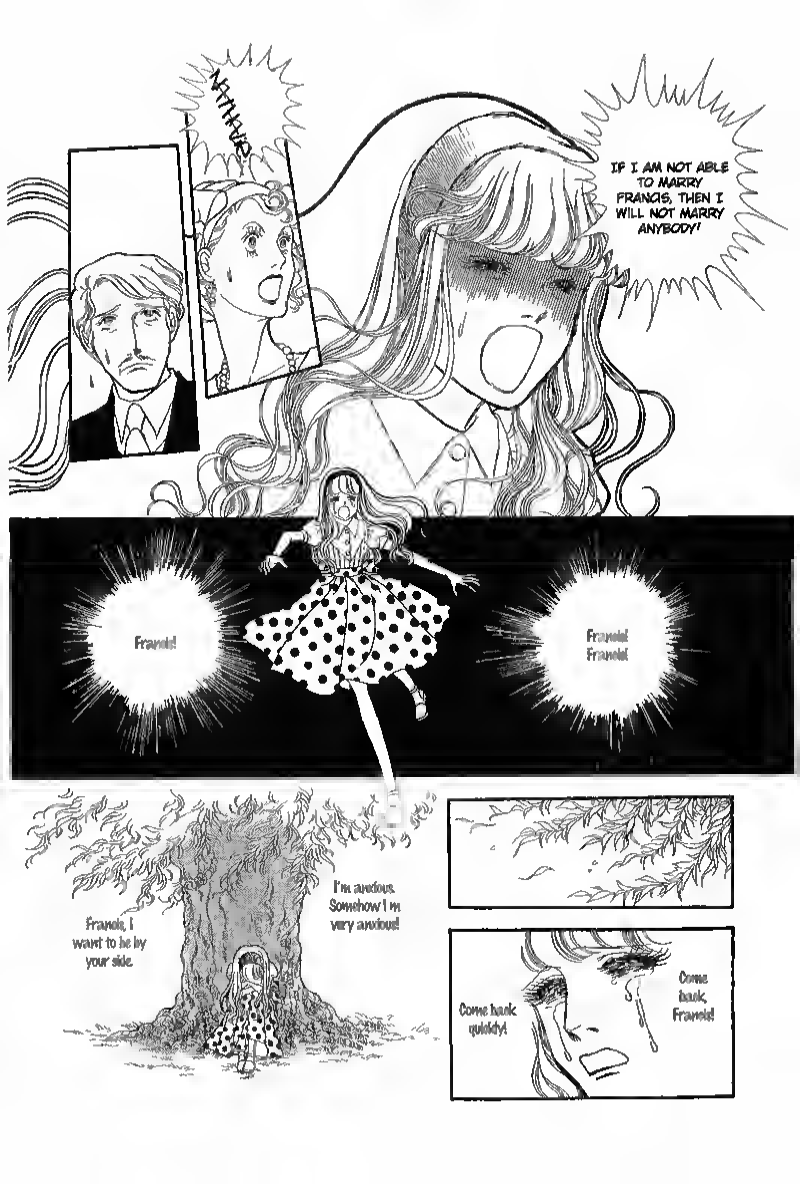
IN THIS WORLD THE WOMEN, BIG BROTHER, CHANGE THEIR SOCIAL POSITION TO THAT OF THEIR HUSBAND!
AN ORPHAN IS HER HUSBAND IS A HILARIOUS THING, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I THINK ABOUT IT. IT WOULD BE SHAMEFUL FOR THE HOUSE OF LORME.
I'M AGAINST IT! NATHALIE IS THE PRECIOUS, ONLY GIRL OF THE LORME


Could it be that only because he's an orphan he was submitted to all those tasks?
My desire to marry Francis is such a disrespectful thing?

Shameful for the house of Lorme
A hilarious thing

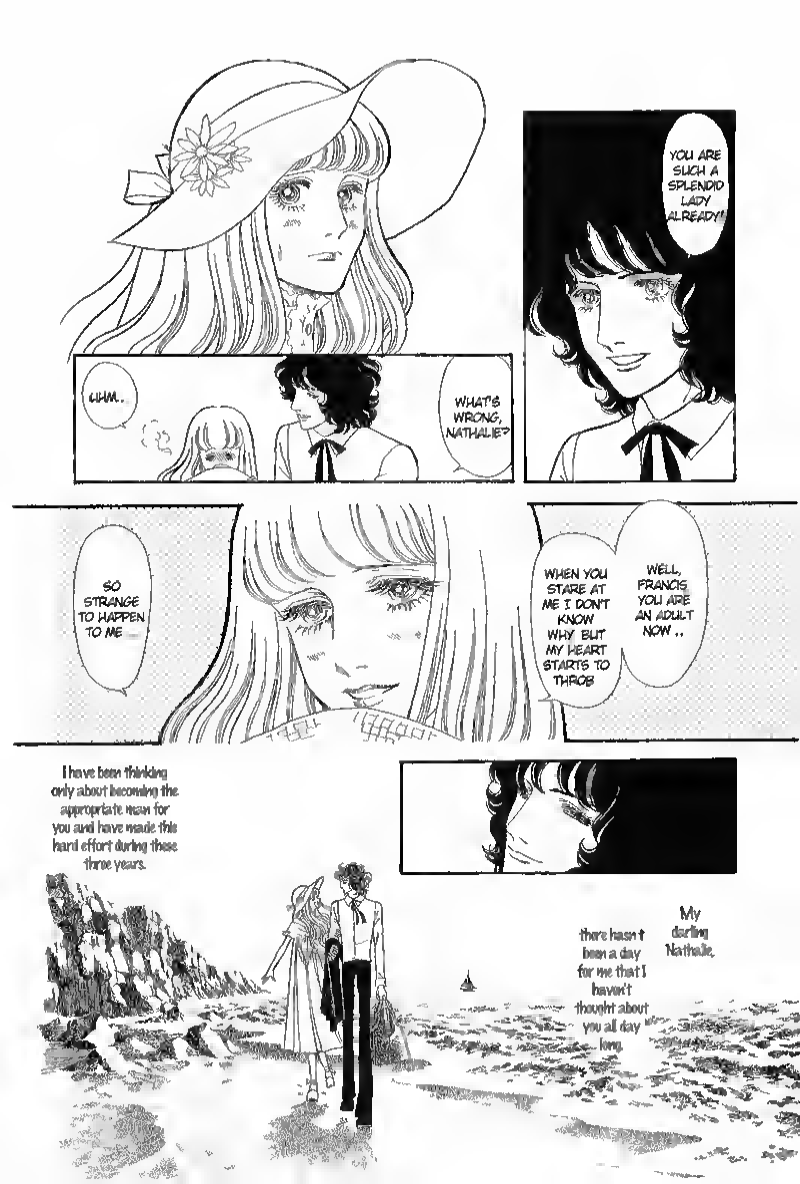
The fact that for me Francis is such a wonderful person doesn't have anything to do with it?
To marry a man without love, just to preserve the house name, is this such an important thing?


Open
MY MARRIAGE CONCERNS ONLY ME!
DON'T DECIDE ON YOUR OWN!
IT ISN'T STRANGE TO MAKE AN ENGAGEMENT, AS SHE IS OF AGE
ANYWAY, BECAUSE NATHALIE WILL CARRY ON THE NAME OF THE FAMILY, WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR THE APPROPRIATE MAN FOR HER.
I WOULDN'T EXCHANGE FRANCIS FOR ANYONE!
ONLY FRANCIS CAN BE MY PRINCE!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW KIND HE IS WITH ME, HOW MUCH HE LOVES ME!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FRANCIS!
IF IT ISN'T FRANCIS, I DON'T WANT IT! I LOVE FRANCIS!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN LEAVE US ALONE!
NATHALIE! AUNTIE IS THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN GOOD!


IF I AM NOT ABLE TO MARRY FRANCIS, THEN I WILL NOT MARRY ANYBODY!
FRANCIS!
Francis!
Francis! Francis!
Francis, I want to be by your side.
I'm anxious. Somehow I'm very anxious!
Come back quickly!
Come back, Francis!

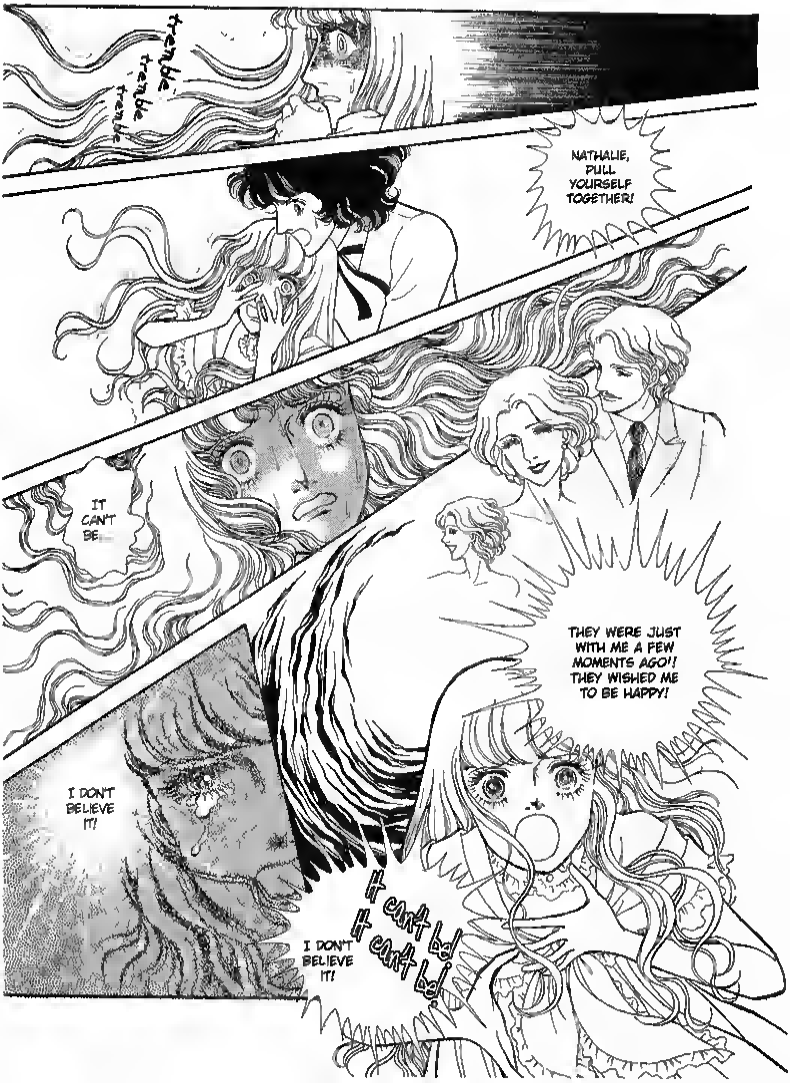
NATHALIE, THE HAPPINESS, YOU HAVE TO FIND IT BY YOURSELF!
YES, MOTHER.
WE'LL RETURN NEXT WEEK, SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO MEET HIM THEN.
IT'S SUCH A PITY WE HAVE THINGS TO DO THE DAY FRANCIS RETURNS!
MOTHER!
DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE TORN FROM THE MAN YOU LOVE MOST! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I WISH THAT BOTH YOU AND FRANCIS BECOME HAPPY
I will be happier than anybody on earth.
Thank you, father, mother. I love you!
YOU'LL GO OUT TO MEET HIM, RIGHT? GO THEN!

I HAVE BEEN SO LONE-SOME, FRANCIS!
FRAN-CIS!
FRANCIS, FRAN-CIS! I WANTED SO MUCH TO MEET YOU! SO MUCH!
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS! YOU BECAME SO BEAUTIFUL! I'M SO SURPRISED!


YOU ARE SUCH A SPLENDID LADY ALREADY!
WHAT'S WRONG, NATHALIE?
UHM..
WELL, FRANCIS YOU ARE AN ADULT NOW ..
WHEN YOU STARE AT ME I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT MY HEART STARTS TO THROB
SO STRANGE TO HAPPEN TO ME
My darling Nathalie,
there hasn't been a day for me that I haven't thought about you all day long.
I have been thinking only about becoming the appropriate man for you and have made this hard effort during these three years.

LET'S GET MARRIED, NATHALIE!
LET'S GET MARRIED, NATHALIE!
WHEN I GRADUATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY...
FOUR YEARS FROM NOW

MADE-MOI-SELLE!
MADE-MOI-SELLE!
IT'S... IT'S AWFUL THE PLANE IN WHICH MONSIEUR AND MADAME BOARDED...
Pant
Pant
THEY... THEY JUST ANNOUNCED ON TV...
HAS CRA-SHED!
Crash!!


tremble tremble tremble
NATHALIE, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
IT CAN'T BE...
THEY WERE JUST WITH ME A FEW MOMENTS AGO!! THEY WISHED ME TO BE HAPPY!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
It can't be! It can't be!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

YOU WERE IN SUCH GOOD HEALTH, BROTHER!
BROTHER! BROTHER! SUCH A THING TO HAPPEN!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

HOW DID I GET TO BE ALONE SO SUDDENLY?
I'M ALONE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
Waah
AND YET YOU'LL LEAVE! IN SPITE OF THAT SOON YOU'LL GO TO UNIVERSITY!
NATHALIE, YOU ARE NOT ALONE. I AM WITH YOU!
I WILL ALWAYS BE NEXT TO YOU!
WITH FOUR MORE YEARS OF SOLITUDE I'LL BE SO LONELY SO LONELY THAT I'LL END UP DYING!
FRANCIS, YOU WILL LEAVE AND I WILL REMAIN ALONE...
DON'T GO AWAY, FRANCIS! DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU ANYMORE!

I'll stay by your side!
Nathalie, I'll stay here!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE HOUSE OF LORME. I ONLY WANT TO MARRY NATHALIE!
MARRIAGE, YOU SAY? IS THE HOUSE OF LORME A JOKE TO YOU?
YOU DON'T HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO SUCCEED IT.
NATHALIE NEEDS ME!
I WANT TO BE TOGETHER WITH NATHALIE
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? NATHALIE IS UNSTABLE RIGHT NOW. AND IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE SOMEONE BY HER SIDE SHE WILL BREAK DOWN.

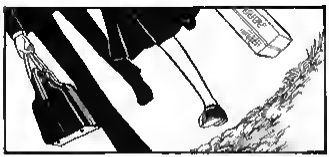
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO MARRY NATHALIE!
IT SEEMS THAT MY BROTHER AND HIS WIFE WERE EXTREMELY AFFECTIONATE TOWARDS YOU: THAT'S WHY I WILL SEND YOU TO THE UNIVERSITY
IN EXCHANGE FOR THAT YOU WILL WORK FOR THE HOUSE OF LORME AFTER YOU GRADUATE
I AM WITH NATHALIE AND THAT'S ENOUGH!
THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY
I'LL SHOW YOU, I'LL MAKE HER HAPPY!
LET ME MARRY NATHALIE!
SHUT UP! DAMNED ORPHAN!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WISHED FOR THIS
I HAVE ALWAYS, ALWAYS BEEN SEPARATED FROM NATHALIE BY THAT WORD

I ALWAYS PROTECTED HER, I LIVED ONLY FOR HER!
MY DESTINY IS TO DEFEND HER. I WAS BORN TO BE WITH HER!
I LOVE NATHALIE!
LOVE HER! LOVE HER!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A SINGLE THING ABOUT OUR FEELINGS!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING! WHAT NATHALIE WANTS IS NOT JUST A MAN TO SUCCEED THE HOUSE OF LORME!
I HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO BECOME THE APPROPRIATE MAN FOR NATHALIE AND THOUGHT ONLY OF THIS!
I'LL GO WITH YOU
AUNTE IS PREPARING FORMAL MARRIAGE INTERVIEWS FOR ME!
WE MAY MEET HARDSHIPS
LET'S RUN AWAY!
FRANCIS!

I'M SO HAPPY, FRANCIS
FINALLY, OUR DREAM COMES TRUE
IT'S AWFUL. THE MADEMOISELLE ISN'T ANYWHERE!
LADY MARIA, THE MADEMOISELLE HAS LEFT THE HOUSE
SHE WAS HERE UNTIL NOW, SO IF SHE WERE TO LEAVE SHE WOULD GO ON THE 10 O'CLOCK TRAIN
QUICKLY! DON'T DAWDLE AROUND!!
CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY! LOOK FOR HER QUICKLY ANY PLACE SHE COULD GO TO!
WHAAAAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

MY AUNT HAS PHONED THEM FOR SURE.
OH NO, FRANCIS! WE CAN'T GET ON THE TRAIN.
WELL THEN, WE'LL BORROW A CAR.
COME, NATHALIE!
HEY! OVER HERE!
OH DAMN! THEY FOUND US!
RUN AWAY, NATHALIE!
WE FOUND THEM! MISS LORME IS THIS YOUNG LADY?!

THEY ARE HEADING TOWARDS THE SEA. PLEASE COME IMMEDIATELY!!
YES WE'VE FOUND THEM.



CATCH THE KIDNAPPER AS WELL, DID YOU HEAR?!
WAIT!!

If I'm separated from Franek now, I won't ever be able to meet him again.
I don't want to return!
No! I don't want to be brought back.
Don't come to search for us!
Please! Lose our tracks! Don't come to search for us!

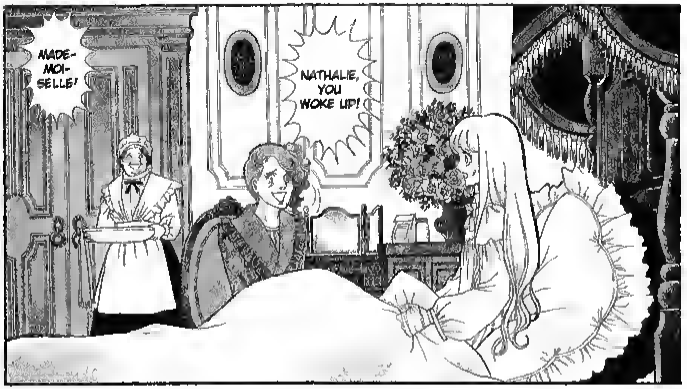
AH...
IMPACT

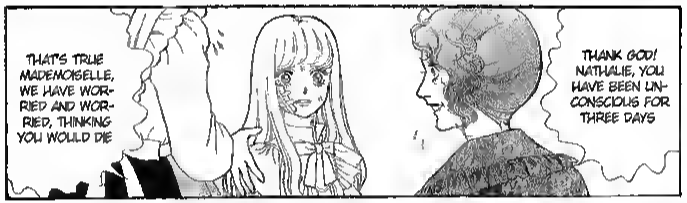
I LEAVE YOU THE HOUSE AND EVERYTHING, AUNT. AS FOR MYSELF I WANT ONLY FRANCIS.
I WON'T RETURN! I WON'T RETURN HOME ANYMORE!
ELOPING; YOU HAVE NO SHAME!
WHAT KIND OF CHILD ARE YOU, NATHALIE?
WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I ONLY THINK OF YOUR HAPPINESS.
NATHALIE!! YOUR AUNT DOES NOT CONVEY YOUR FORTUNE.
THE PRESTIGE, THE POSITION, THE FORTUNE... I DO NOT DESIRE THEM! I ONLY WANT TO BE WITH THE MAN I LOVE!
MY HAPPINESS IS FRANCIS! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REPEAT IT?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, AUNT.
I NEED TO HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH YOU!
ANYWAY, PLEASE COME BACK HOME!
NO!!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! I WON'T COME BACK HOME!

No!
Don't come!
COME ON, MADEMOISELLE!
GO AND BRING HER ALONG!
I LOVE YOU, FRANCIS! ONLY YOU!
ME TOO, NATHALIE!

No!
Kyaaaa!
Noooooo!

Francis...
Francis...
Where are you... Francis?
Where are you...?
FRANCIS!
WHERE ARE YOU?


MADE-
MOI-
SELLE!
NATHALIE,
YOU
WOKE UP!


THAT'S TRUE
MADEMOISELLE,
WE HAVE WOR-
RIED AND WOR-
RIED, THINKING
YOU WOULD DIE
THANK GOD!
NATHALIE, YOU
HAVE BEEN UN-
CONSCIOUS FOR
THREE DAYS

WHERE IS
FRANCIS?

Stage Storm Scanlations

Suna no Shiro Chapter 1

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http://zll.invisionfree.com/stage_storm

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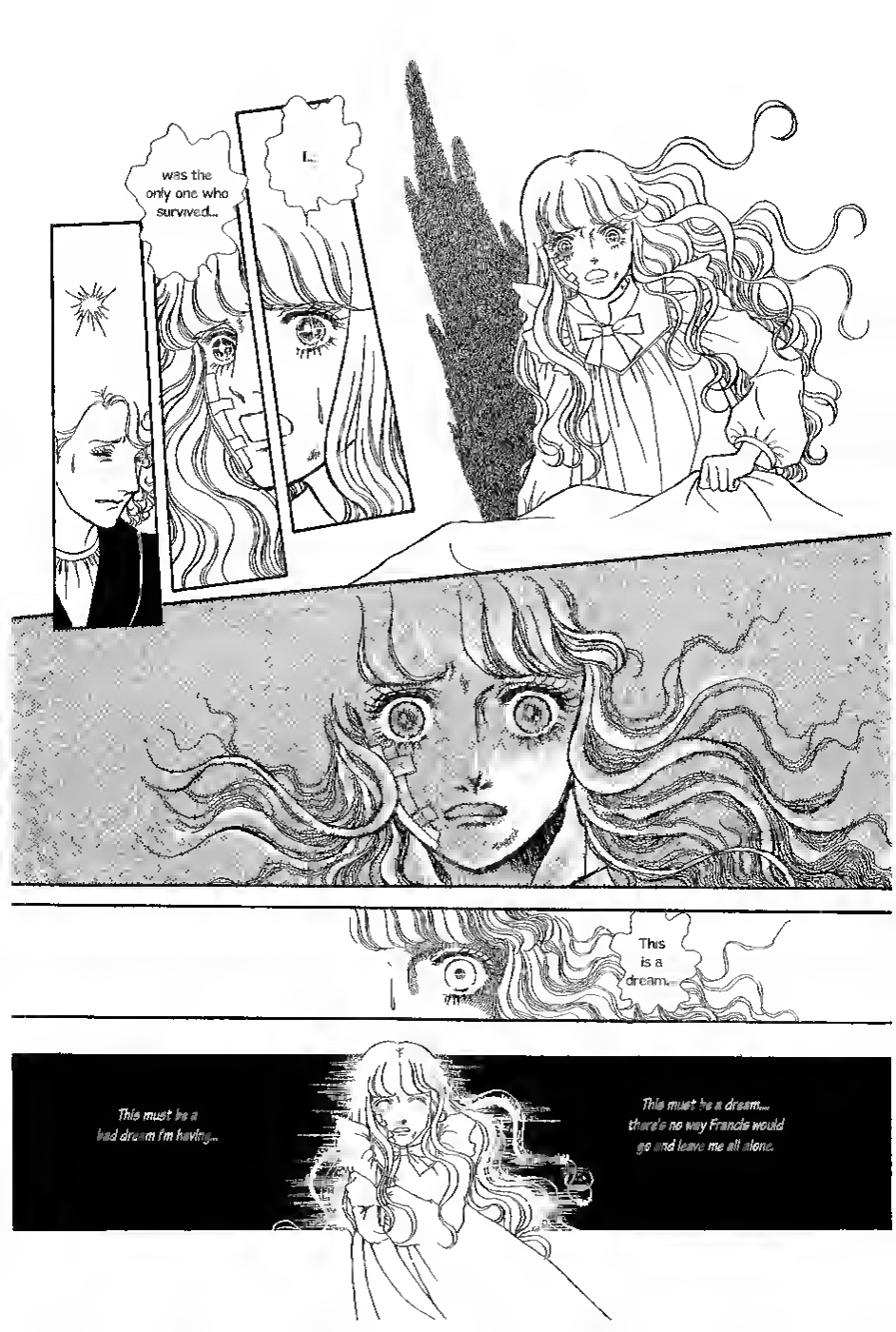
WHERE IS HE?!
WHERE'S FRANCIS?!
The police... and the townspeople... tried searching for him....but..
Francis... isn't here.
It's almost a miracle that you were able to escape with the injuries that you did. Nathalie
Not many people have survived a fall from there
and they gave up after that.
...they found a piece of Francis' clothes by the coast.

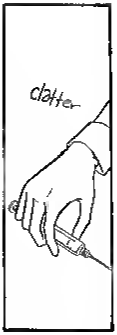

I...
was the only one who survived...
This is a dream.
This must be a bad dream I'm having...
This must be a dream... there's no way Francis would go and leave me all alone.

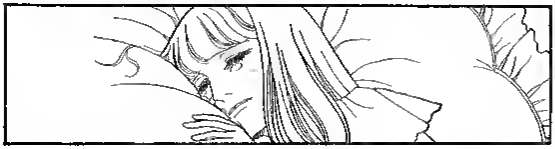
this must be a dream...
there's no way something like this could happen...
That's right... this must be a dream...
This is a dream... I have to wake up!
Wobble
I'll go and call for the docter right away!
Don't tell me that she s ...
Madam, she seems.. to be acting strangely
Nathalie!

Stop it, Nathalie!
What're you doing?!
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME!
I'm going to wake up! This is a dream!
I'm just having a bad dream!
Don't get in my way, Auntie. I'm going to wake up!
I don't want to have a dream like this! If I wake up, I'll be able to see Francis again!
N--No Nathalie--
This isn't a dream
THIS ISN'T A DREAM! I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!
THIS IS A DREAM!!

NO!
Miss!
NOOO! LET ME GO!
Don't try to stop me!
Let go of the knife!
No, Miss!
No!
I don't want to be in this dream any longer!
I don't want to have this dream!
Why are you stopping me?!
I'm going to wake up, so don't try to stop me!
I'm going to see Francis!

Yes
Be sure to keep any potentially dangerous objects out of reach, and try to keep her calm.
Make sure to have someone by her side for a while





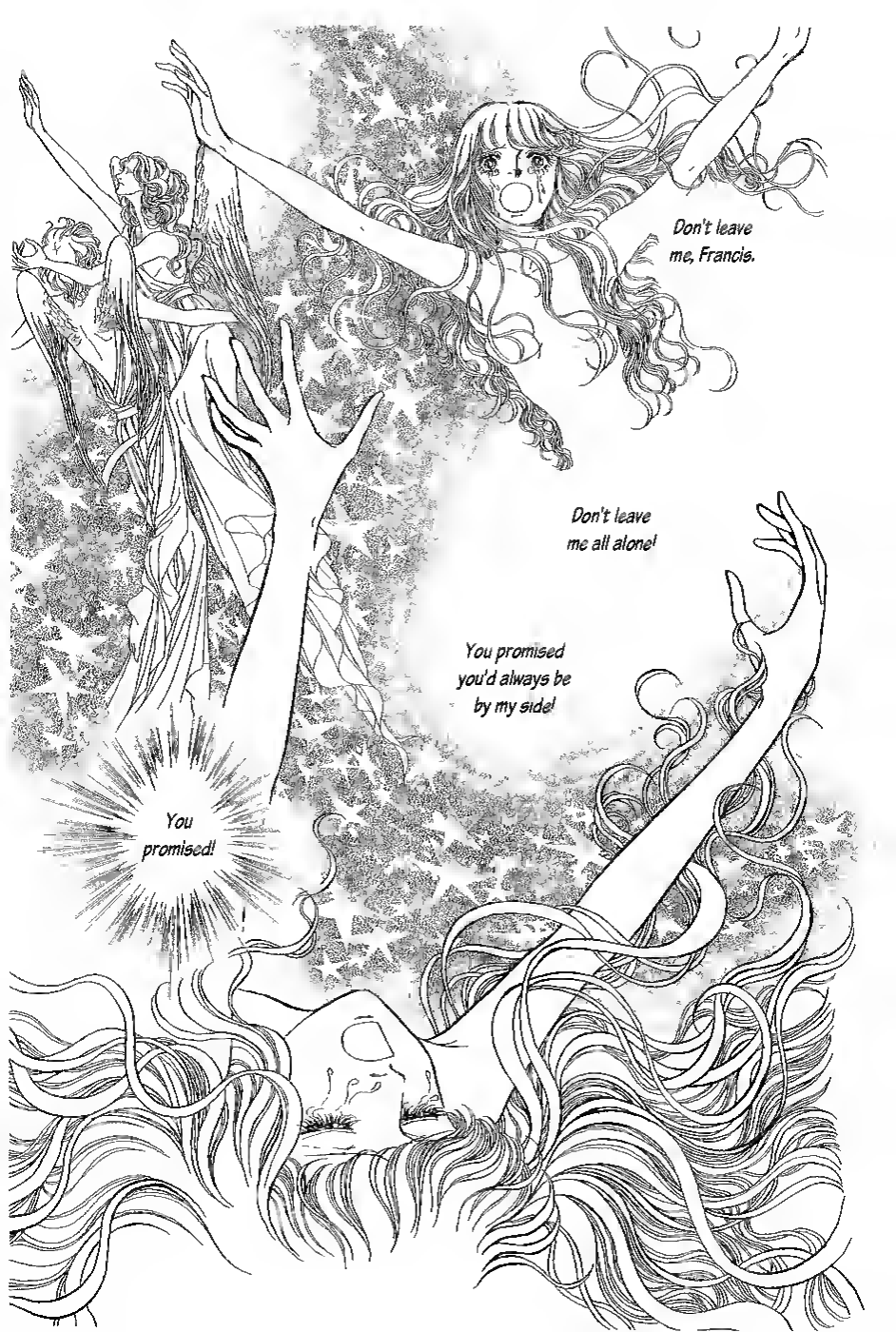
Was I wrong?

I only did everything that I did because I wished for your happiness...

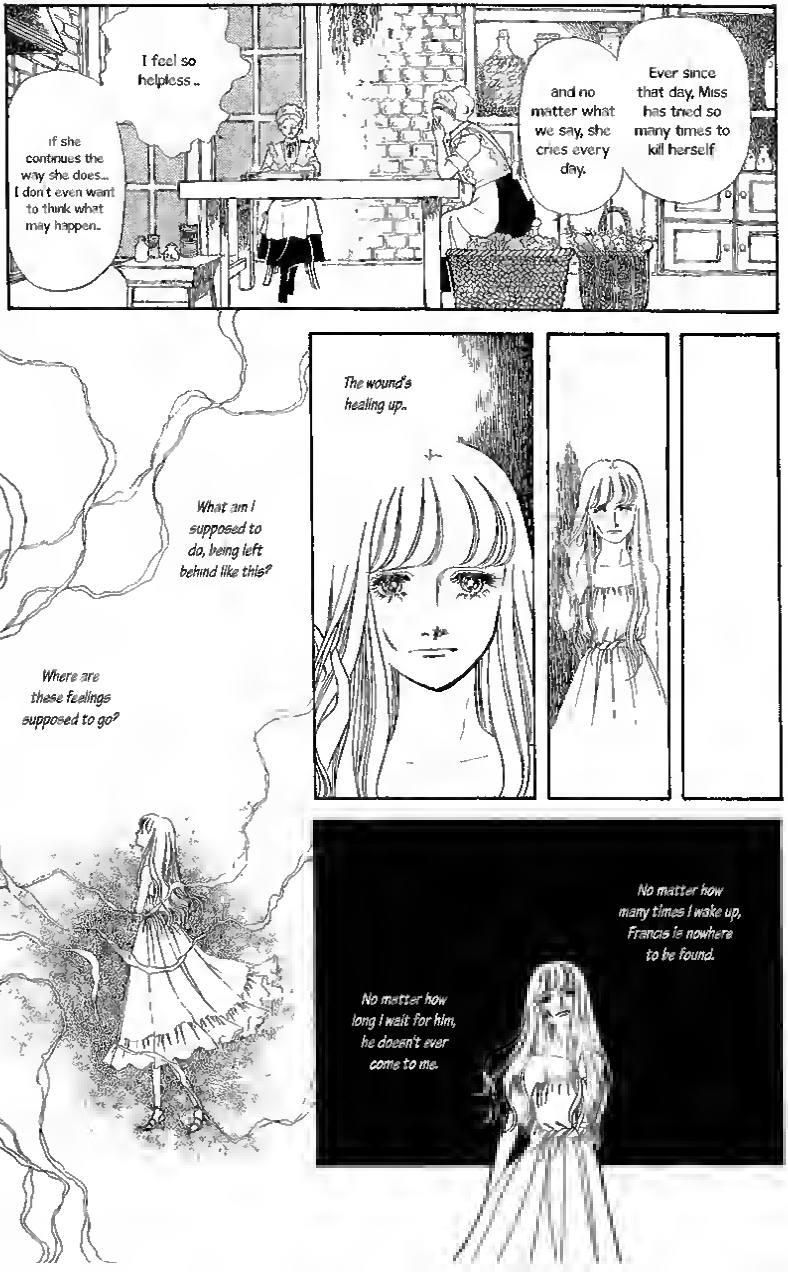
I wanted you to be happy, for my brother and his wife as well... that's all I wanted, Nathalie.

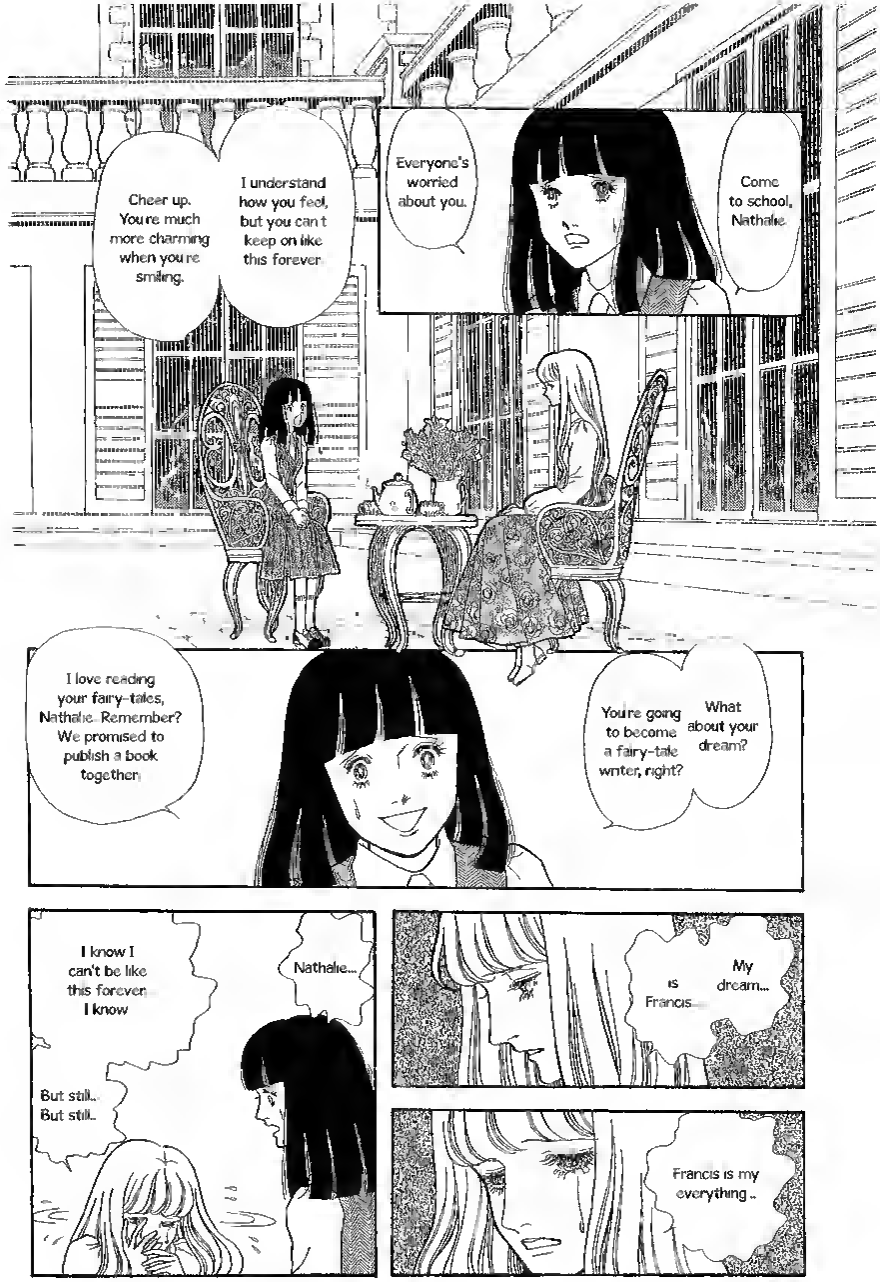
Take me away.

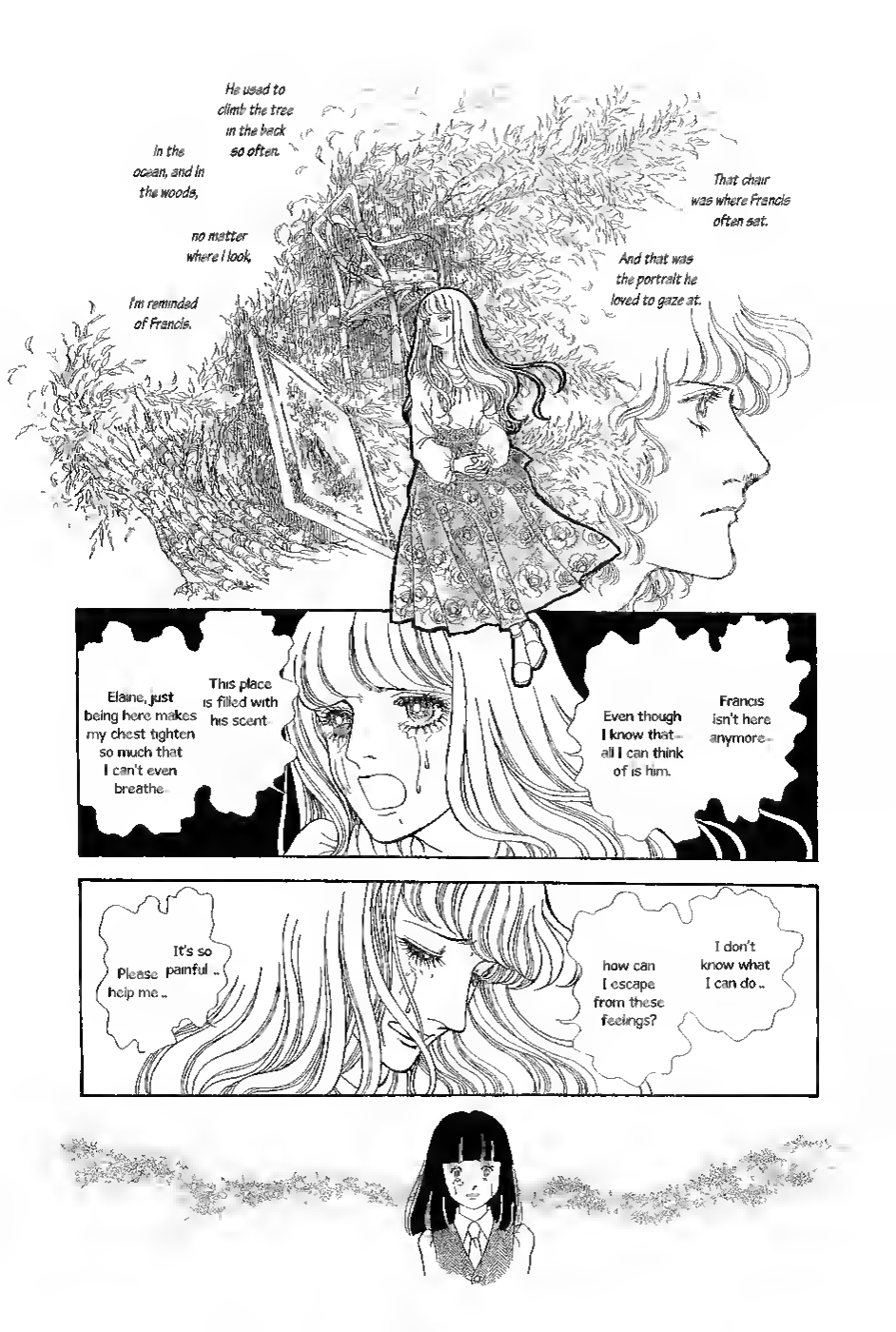
Take me to where Francis is.

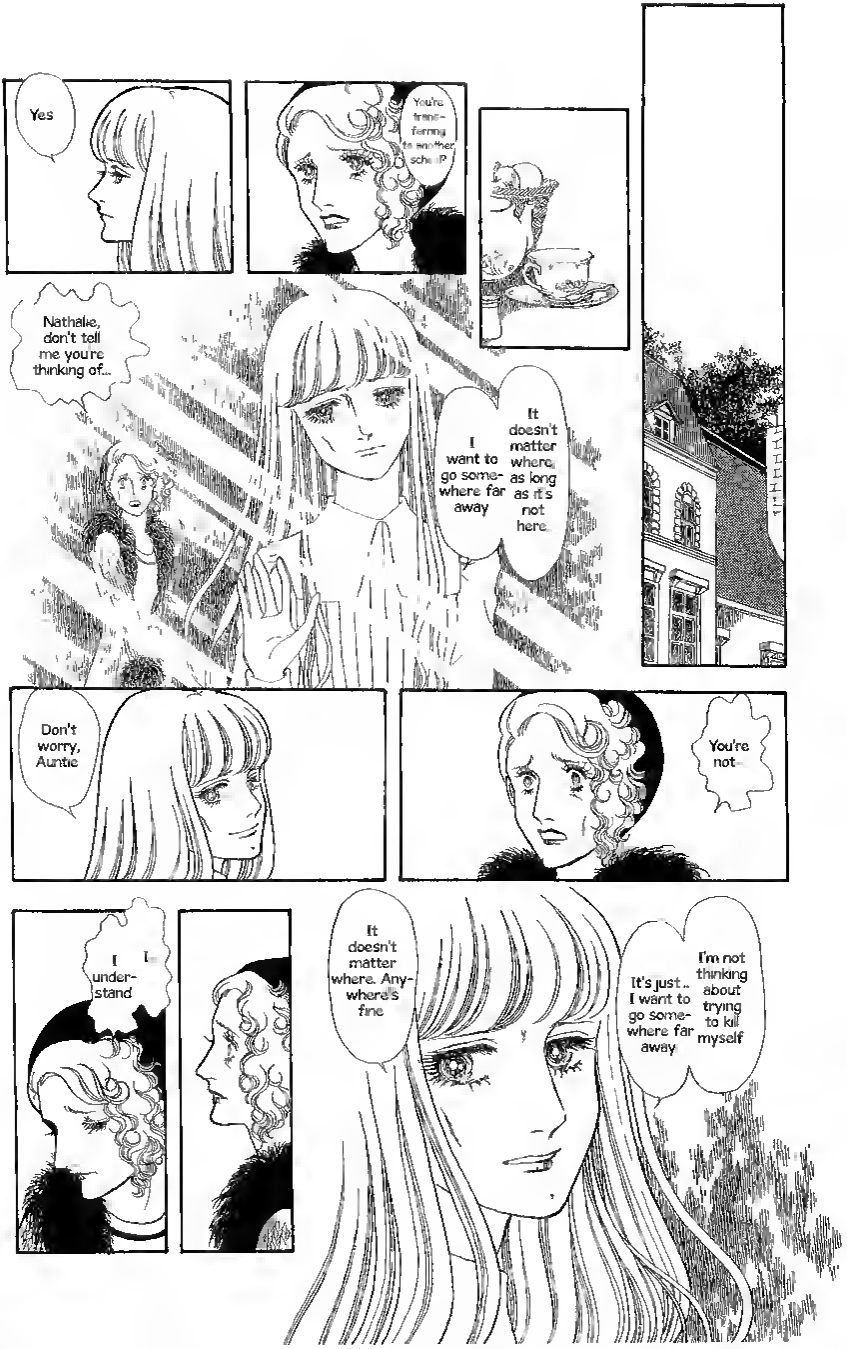

Don't leave me, Francis.
Don't leave me all alone!
You promised you'd always be by my side!
You promised!

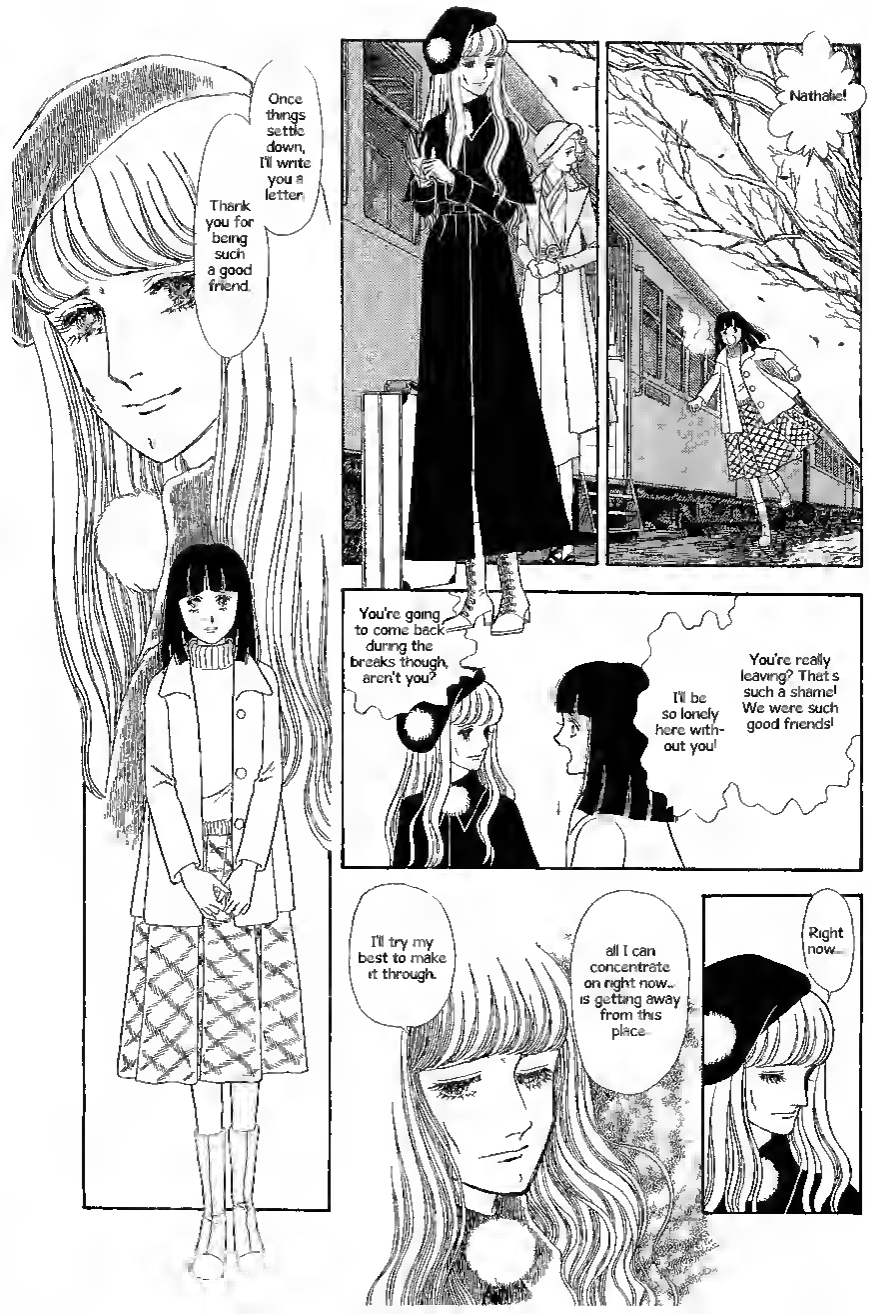
My happiness, don't leave me!
Don't leave me!
Don't leave!
Before this there was never a household happier than this one
Oh, how could things have turned out like this?

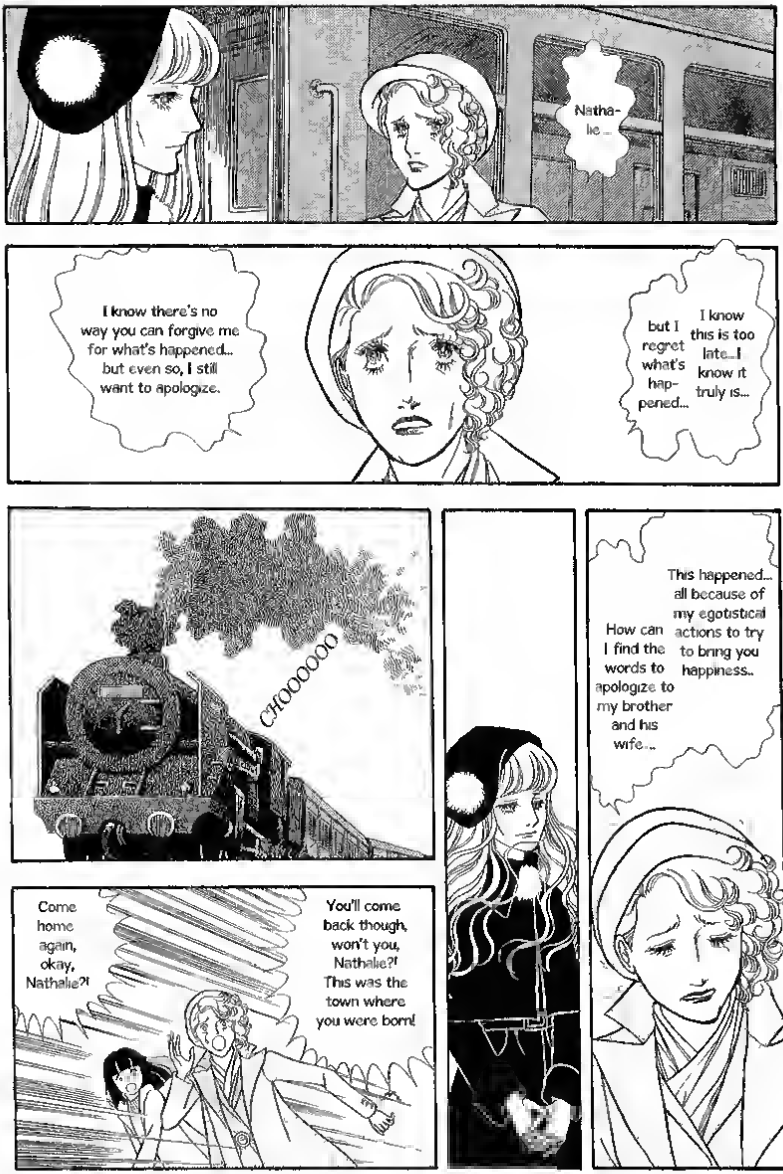

I feel so helpless..
If she continues the way she does... I don't even want to think what may happen..
Ever since that day, Miss has tried so many times to kill herself
and no matter what we say, she cries every day.
The wound's healing up..
What am I supposed to do, being left behind like this?
Where are these feelings supposed to go?
No matter how many times I wake up, Francis is nowhere to be found.
No matter how long I wait for him, he doesn't ever come to me.

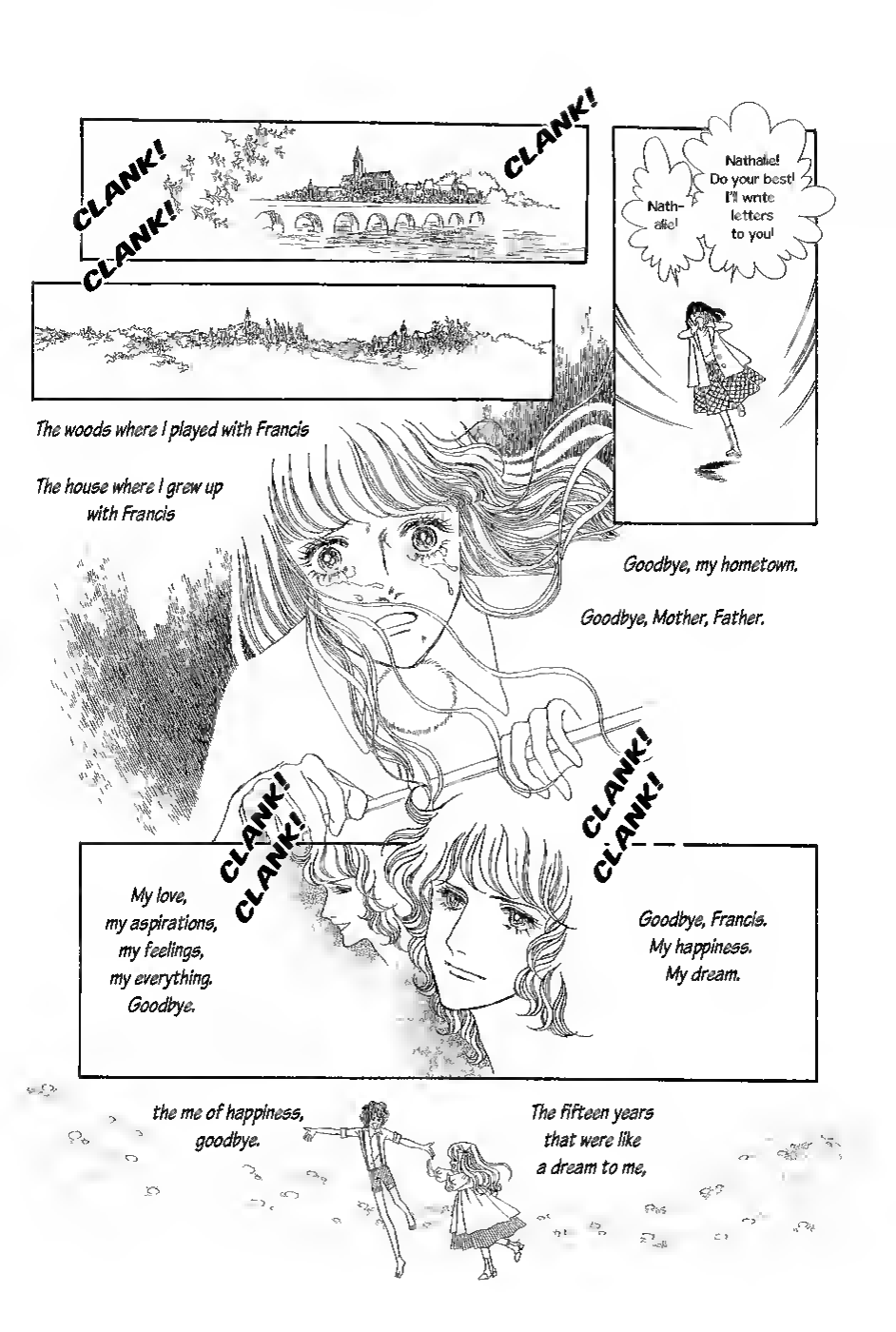

Cheer up. You're much more charming when you're smiling.
I understand how you feel, but you can't keep on like this forever.
Everyone's worried about you.
Come to school, Nathalie.
I love reading your fairy-tales, Nathalie. Remember? We promised to publish a book together.
You're going to become a fairy-tale writer, right?
What about your dream?
I know I can't be like this forever. I know
But still... But still...
Nathalie...
My dream... is Francis...
Francis is my everything...


He used to climb the tree in the back so often.
In the ocean, and in the woods,
no matter where I look,
I'm reminded of Francis.
That chair was where Francis often sat.
And that was the portrait he loved to gaze at.
Elaine, just being here makes my chest tighten so much that I can't even breathe.
This place is filled with his scent.
Even though I know that— all I can think of is him.
Francis isn't here anymore—
It's so painful .. Please help me ..
how can I escape from these feelings?
I don't know what I can do ..

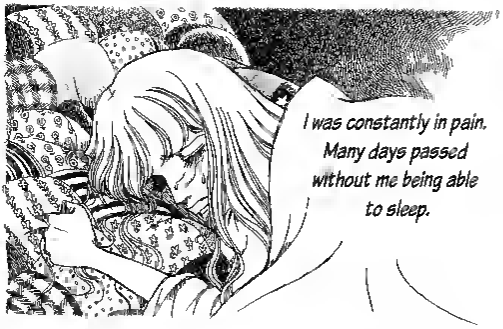

Yes
You're transferring to another school?
Nathalie, don't tell me you're thinking of...
I want to go somewhere far away
It doesn't matter where, as long as it's not here.
Don't worry, Auntie
You're not-
I understand
It doesn't matter where. Anywhere's fine
It's just.. I want to go somewhere far away
I'm not thinking about trying to kill myself

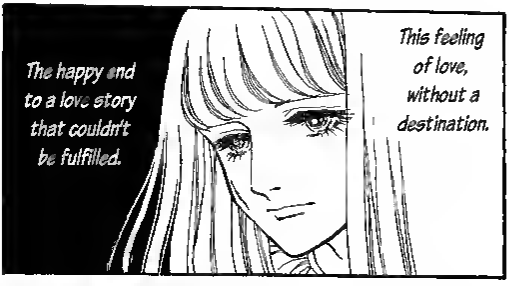

Once things settle down, I'll write you a letter.
Thank you for being such a good friend.
Nathalie!
You're going to come back during the breaks though, aren't you?
I'll be so lonely here without you!
You're really leaving? That's such a shame! We were such good friends!
I'll try my best to make it through.
all I can concentrate on right now... is getting away from this place...
Right now...

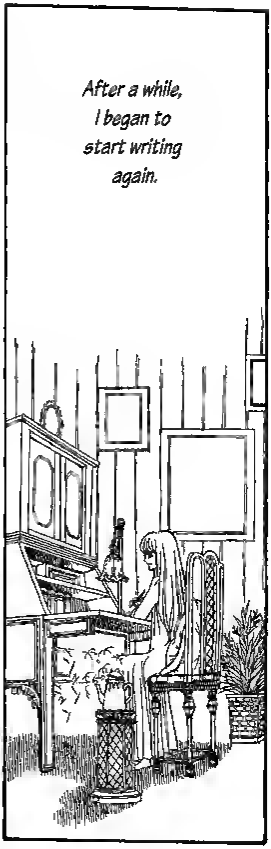

Natha-
lie...
I know there's no way you can forgive me for what's happened... but even so, I still want to apologize.
but I regret what's happened...
I know this is too late...I know it truly is...
CHOOOOOO
This happened... all because of my egotistical actions to try to bring you happiness..
How can I find the words to apologize to my brother and his wife...
Come home again, okay, Nathalie?!
You'll come back though, won't you, Nathalie?! This was the town where you were born!

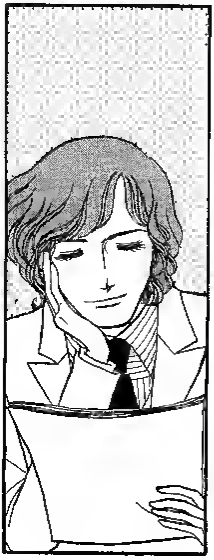

CLANK!
CLANK!
CLANK!
Nath-alie!
Nathalie! Do your best! I'll write letters to you!
The woods where I played with Francis
The house where I grew up with Francis
Goodbye, my hometown.
Goodbye, Mother, Father.
CLANK!
CLANK!
CLANK!
CLANK!
My love, my aspirations, my feelings, my everything. Goodbye.
Goodbye, Francis. My happiness. My dream.
the me of happiness, goodbye.
The fifteen years that were like a dream to me,

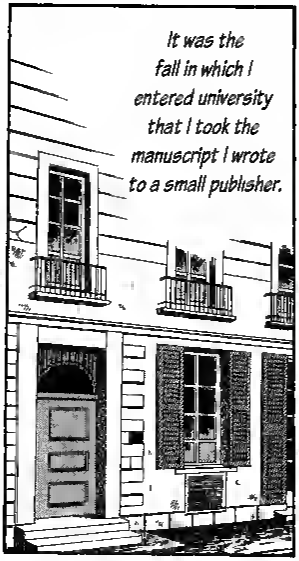
A new school,
People who I've never met before.
My new life begins.
The days just pass by, one after another.
Without me realizing it, two years had passed.
The treasure box like dream with the prince and the princess.
My dreams were always the same – of the happier times with Francis.
I lived my life hanging on a warped thread between life and death.


I was constantly in pain. Many days passed without me being able to sleep.
Whenever I wake up, I'm overwhelmed with the mixture of hatred, of irritation, and of emptiness.

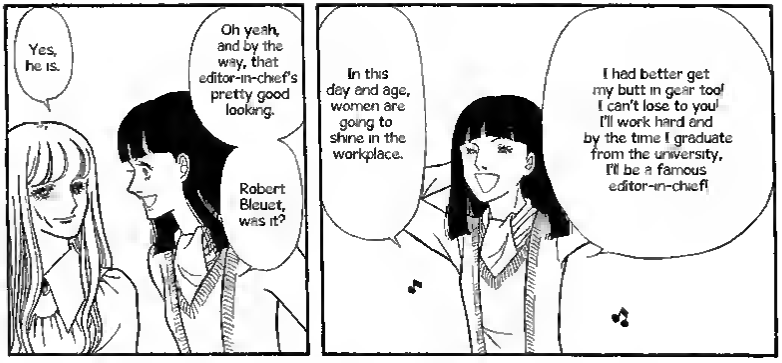

The happy end to a love story that couldn't be fulfilled.
This feeling of love, without a destination.

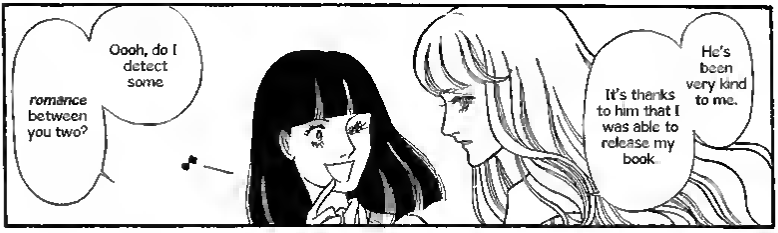

After a while, I began to start writing again.



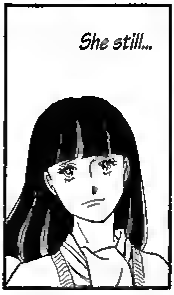

It was the fall in which I entered university that I took the manuscript I wrote to a small publisher.

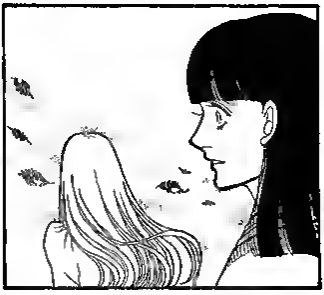
This is pretty good.
Why don't you think of writing professionally?
and it came to a point where a selection of my works were to be put together for publication.
A young, hard-working editor-in-chief approved of my works,
Thank you, Mr. Bleuet.
Call me Robert, Miss Nathalie.
Since I got into this school, I forced him to let me work here!
When I saw your book, I was so excited!
It's filled with more dreams than the stories you wrote when you were younger. I love it!
Oh, you two are well acquainted?
I read your work, Nathalie! Congratulations!
Elaine!
There was something else for me to be joyous over as well.
My friend, Elaine Aumont, started working part time at the very same publishing firm.
Nathalie!

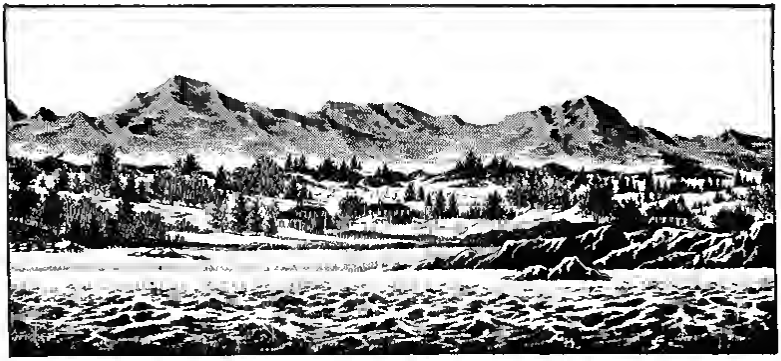

Yes, he is.
Oh yeah, and by the way, that editor-in-chief's pretty good looking.
Robert Bleuet, was it?
In this day and age, women are going to shine in the workplace.
I had better get my butt in gear too! I can't lose to you! I'll work hard and by the time I graduate from the university, I'll be a famous editor-in-chief!



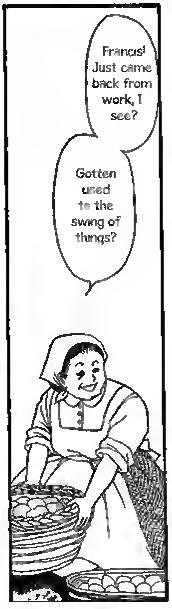
She still hasn't been able to forget Francis?



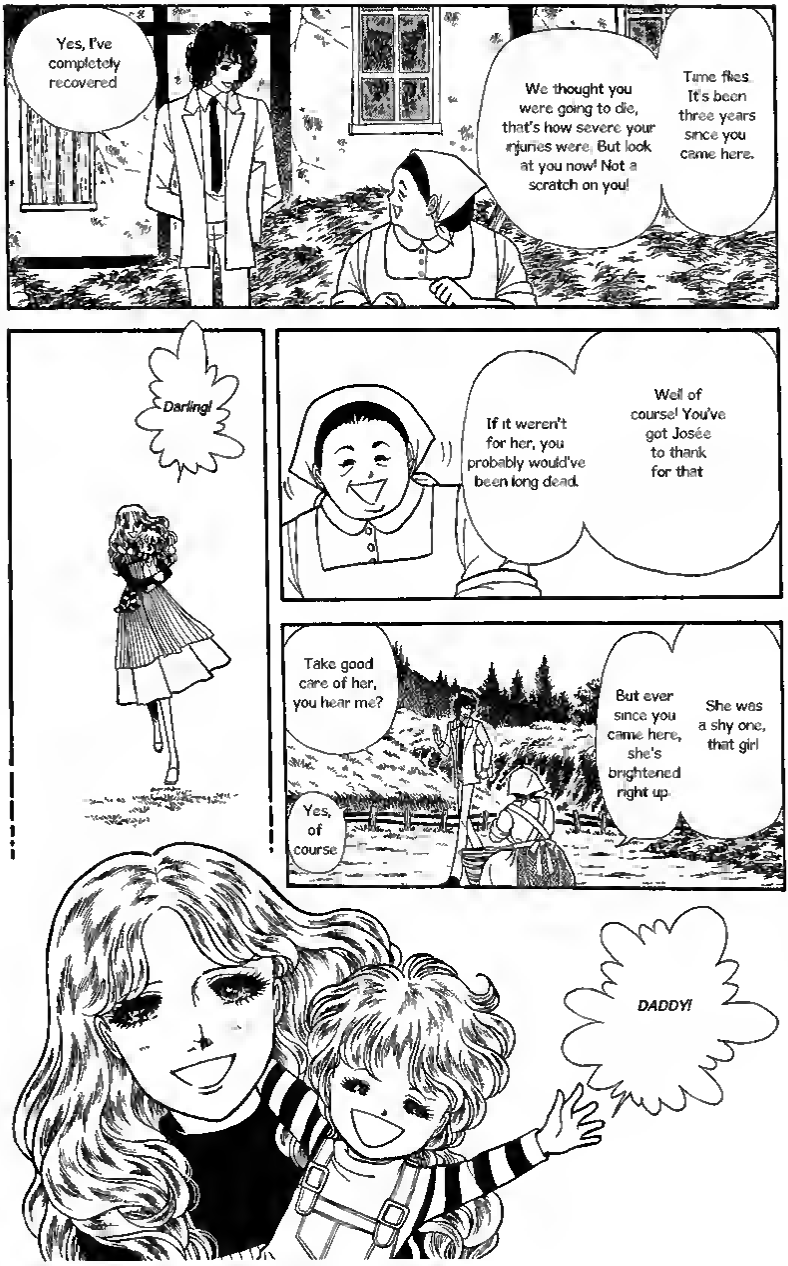




Yes, I have.
The men at the town hall were overjoyed that you're such a hard worker.

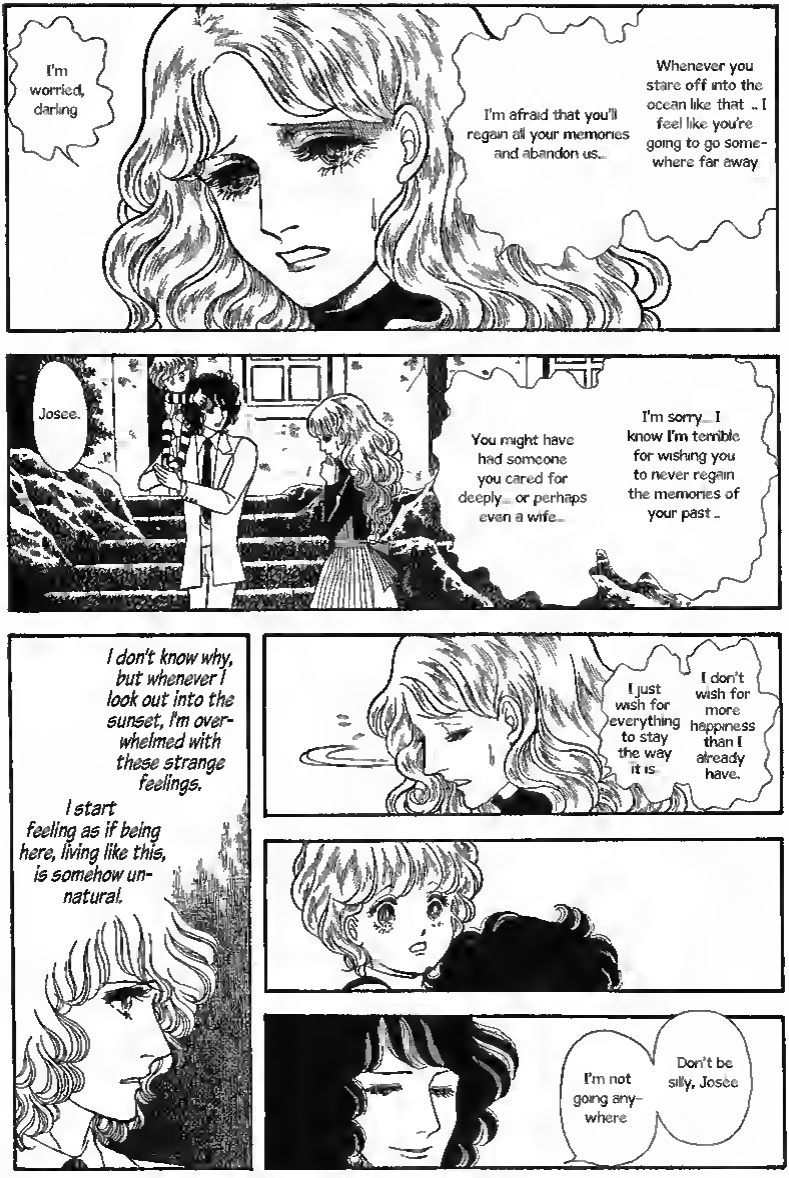

Francis! Just came back from work, I see?
Gotten used to the swing of things?

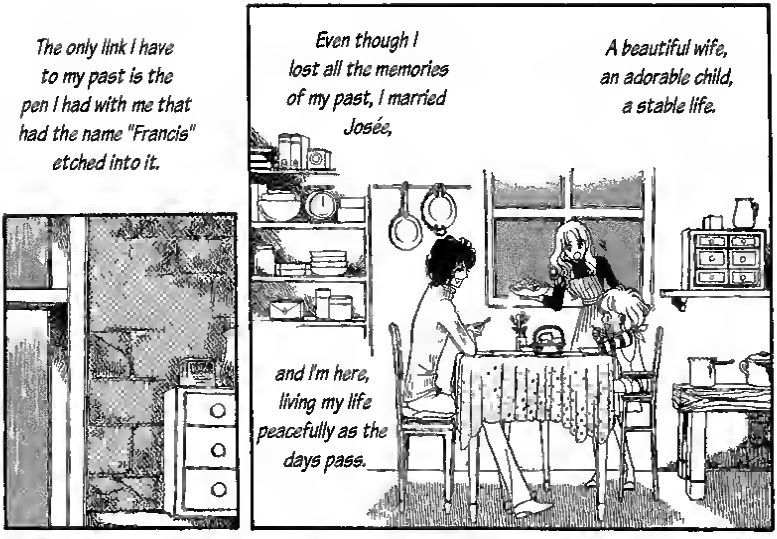
VROOM!


Yes, I've completely recovered
We thought you were going to die, that's how severe your injuries were. But look at you now! Not a scratch on you!
Time flies. It's been three years since you came here.
Darling!
If it weren't for her, you probably would've been long dead.
Well of course! You've got Josée to thank for that
Take good care of her, you hear me?
Yes, of course
But ever since you came here, she's brightened right up.
She was a shy one, that girl
DADDY!

KYA! KYA!
KYAHAHAHAHA!
Okay, okay. How's this?
He was set on coming here with me. He wouldn't listen otherwise!
Hey, you came too, Marco?
Daddy, airplane! Airplane!
Oh, no, not for a while. We've got a handful just as it is.
Are you two going to try for a girl next?
Marco got the best qualities of both of you
Oh, don't tease him
Try your best now!
?
They do say a husband's worth is reflected in the number of young'uns
Oh, don't be kidding. I've got six young'uns

Darling..
I'm worried..
pat pat
It's nothing, Marco. I was just looking somewhere far away..
Hmm?
Daddy! What are you looking at?


I'm worried, darling
I'm afraid that you'll regain all your memories and abandon us...
Whenever you stare off into the ocean like that .. I feel like you're going to go somewhere far away
Josee.
You might have had someone you cared for deeply... or perhaps even a wife...
I'm sorry... I know I'm terrible for wishing you to never regain the memories of your past ..
I don't know why, but whenever I look out into the sunset, I'm overwhelmed with these strange feelings.
I start feeling as if being here, living like this, is somehow unnatural.
I just wish for everything to stay the way it is.
I don't wish for more happiness than I already have.
I'm not going anywhere
Don't be silly, Josee

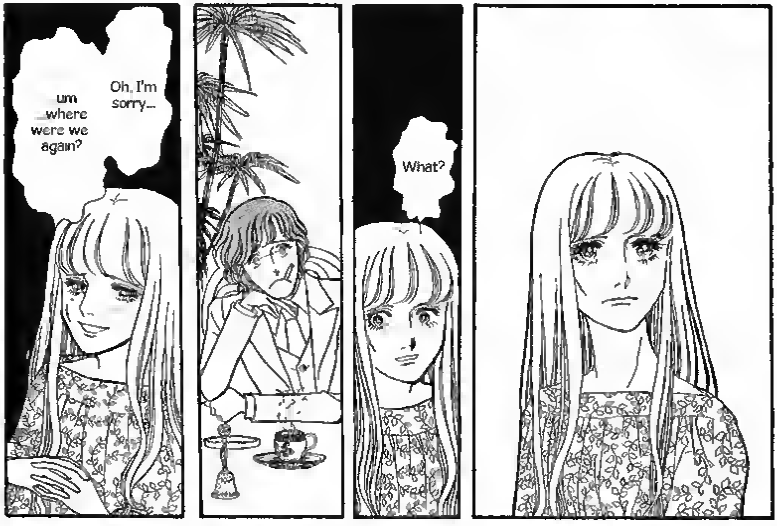

The only link I have to my past is the pen I had with me that had the name "Francis" etched into it.
Even though I lost all the memories of my past, I married Josée,
A beautiful wife, an adorable child, a stable life.
and I'm here, living my life peacefully as the days pass.

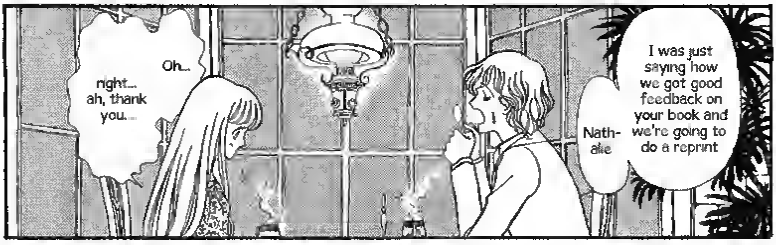
I become irritated because I start to panic that I might have forgotten something very important.
It's not as if I'm unsatisfied, or particularly sad about this life. It's just...

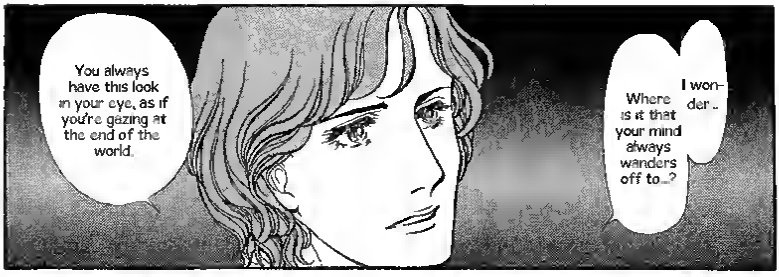
My life now is here, with them.
I should just stop thinking about it.
KYAHAHAHA HAHA!

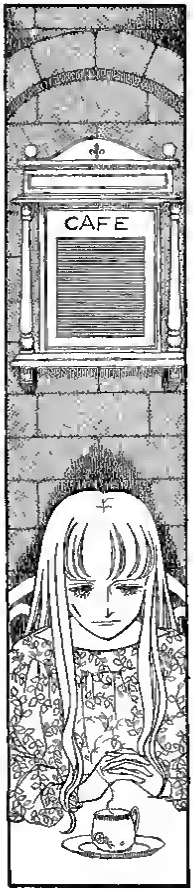
The days pass.

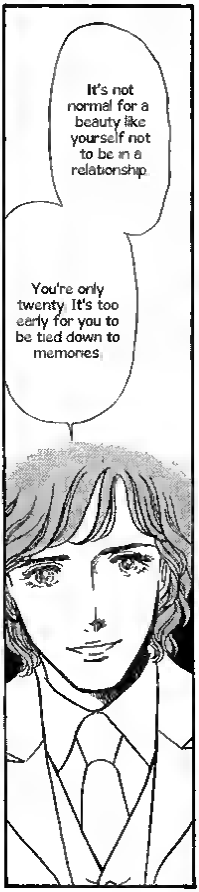
Even as I'm affected by these memories that keep on bubbling to the surface, the days gently pass...



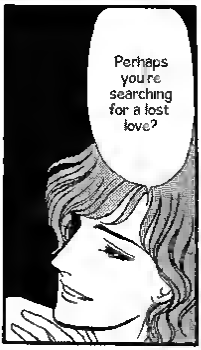



You always have this look in your eye, as if you're gazing at the end of the world.
I wonder...
Where is it that your mind always wanders off to...?


CAFE


It's not normal for a beauty like yourself not to be in a relationship.
You're only twenty. It's too early for you to be tied down to memories.

TENSE!


Perhaps you're searching for a lost love?

Oh...

Well, I've had a hunch about it for a while.
It's not good for you to be like this.

People...
Here I am living that way...
...but, even then...
might be incapable of living solely on memories...
I'm through with love
What's with the long face, editor-in-chief?
Nathalie's book is flying off the shelves! It's reason for you to smile!
Looks like there's not even a glimpse of hope for me...
It's because of the writer of that very book.
Is there no way to help her? As she is now, she's practically a mummy of love

are the dreams she never fulfilled with him.
Her stories...
I'm surprised she can write fairy tales, the way she is. And all her stories are love stories with a prince, to boot.
How does she do it?
She keeps her feelings trapped inside, and she's always gazing off somewhere far away.
How horrible...
Even after all these years, she still hasn't been able to move on.
Ever since she was small enough to realize it, she's been in love with him.
What was that for, Elaine?!
THUD!
He died.
Did he turn her down?
Oh, so he died...

It'd take less time than it would for you to drink a cup of tea!
A small publishing firm like this will run itself into the ground if you give it the chance!
If you have the time to have your head in the clouds, then give these a once-over!
I don't have any dreams of the future anymore.
He probably thinks me strange.
"I wonder... Where is it your mind always wanders off to...?"
I agree
She's going to become one devil of an editor
Well I don't deny that but boy, those are some harsh words.
The only concrete thing I have left to me to remind me of the incident, is this scar.
I wonder if some day these feelings of mine will settle into the subconscious.
Even after five years, this scar won't fade.

FRANCIS...?!
I wonder if that day will ever come?
I wonder if, one day, I'll be able to think back on this and laugh, as I do with my fondest memories . . .
RING!
RING!
This is Nathalie Rome speaking
Yes?
~
It's me, Cécil I'm calling today because . . .
Is that you, miss?
What?!

Translator Oceansportrait
PR Shing
Cleaning Mudflower
Typesetting eye
QC Conclusion
CassiusOS

NCIS

SUNA NO SHIRO

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Cleaners All Series
Translators Piece of Cake Heruko 17
PR/QC Shoujo/Josei
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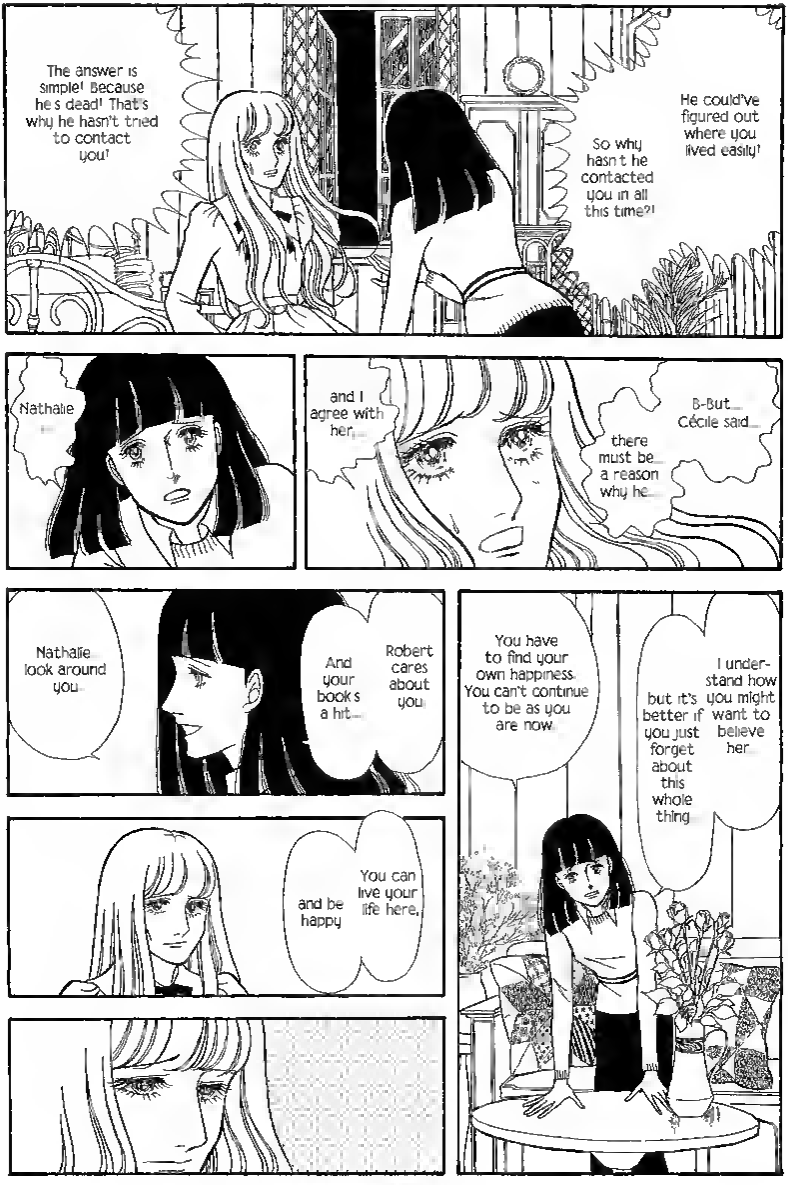
Francis is alive?!
Is that true, Cécile?!
Did you really see Francis?!
Yes. Miss. I'm sure of it.
Everyone told me that I must've just seen someone who looked like him.
but I've known him ever since he came to live at your house. There's no way I would mistake him for somebody else.
It was there that I saw him. He was on a ship that left from the harbor nearby. I only caught a glimpse of him, but there's no mistaking it. That was Francis.
It wasn't long ago I received a holiday and went back to my home town.

I don't know why he hasn't tried to contact you all this time,
but I felt like I had to call you and tell you this.
but there's no mistaking it... It was Francis who I saw
I was told that I shouldn't tell you if it'll only lead to you being disappointed.
Francis is...
He might've even thought I died on that day
He must've felt like he couldn't call the house, and he didn't know where I was...
Francis must've been saved by somebody as well and...
I've been alive all this time

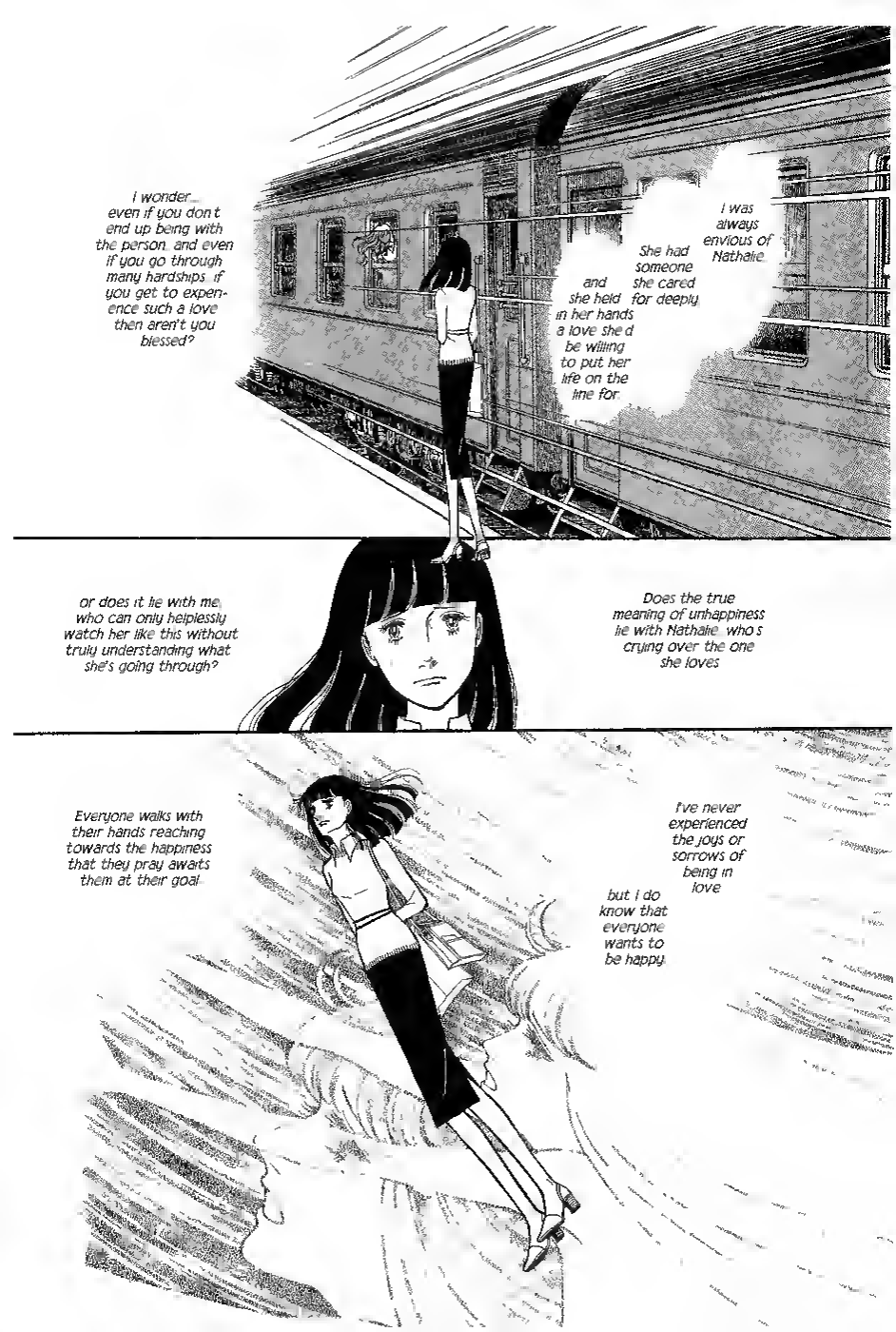
Francis is alive
All this time I thought he was dead when he was actually alive
Of course they weren t able to find his body
He's alive
He's alive
I've experienced this before
I stayed up all night listening to the ticking of the clock
The day before Francis came back for summer break
I'm going to catch the first train out there I'm going to go search for Francis
Please time pass quickly Turn to morning already
チッ チッ チッ

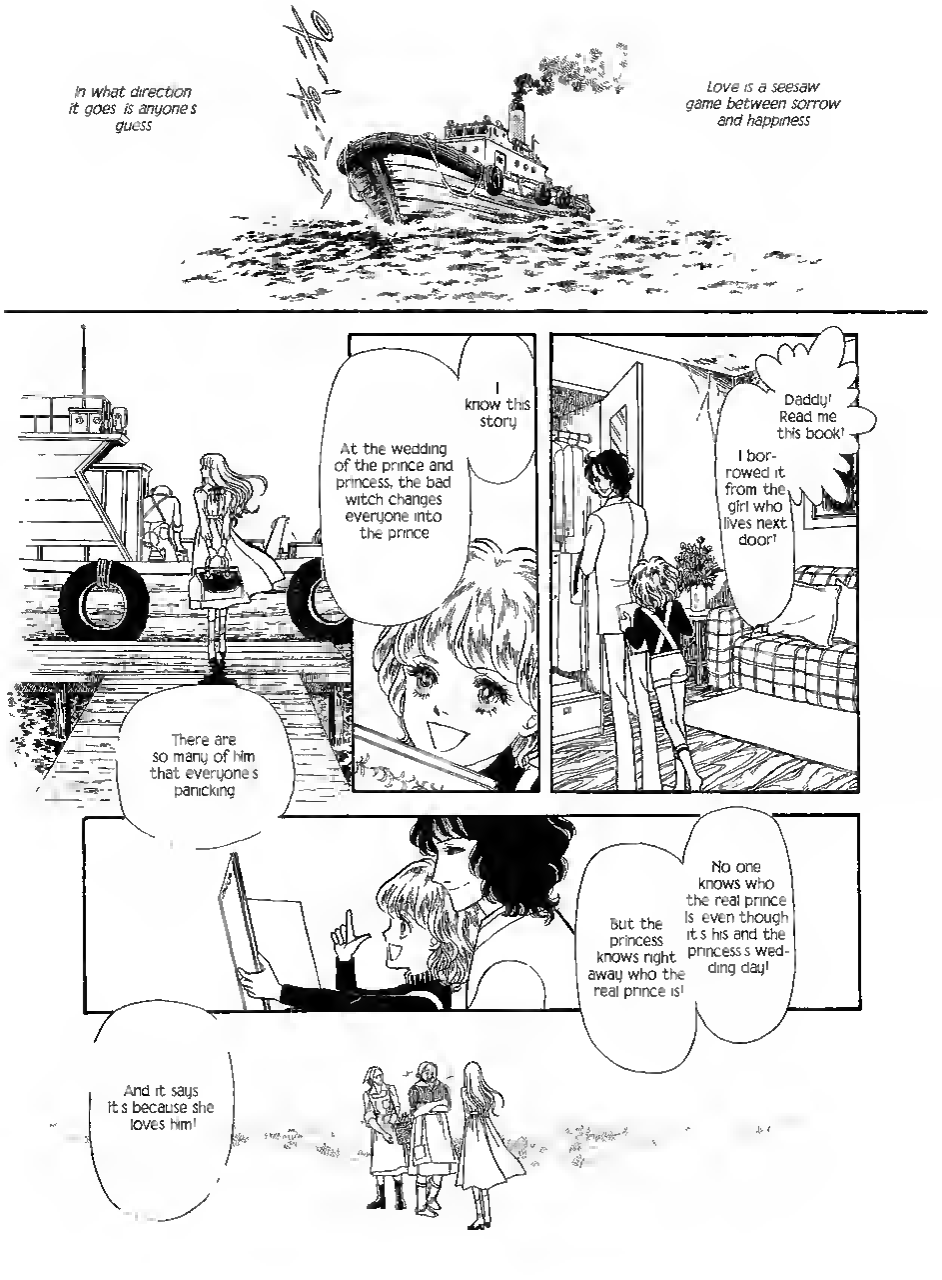
We can live together just the two of us
And then, this time we can be happy.
Wait for me Francis
Surely I'll find you
Hey Nathalie open up!
I was doing an all-nighter proofreading and they locked me out of my dorm!
Nathalie! Nathalie! Open up!
I'm really sorry to burst in on you like this so late
Sorry!
Every-one is asleep already
Not so loud, Elaine
and you seem really excited.
Are you going some-where? You're all dressed up
Would you like some tea?
Have a seat

He's alive, Elaine! He's alive!
I've been near there before
He probably washed up on that island It's not that hard to believe
Yes, Cécile saw him
That's why I'm going to search for him
Francis is alive?!
He must've known how worried you would've been about him! It doesn't make any *sense!*
Then why hasn't he tried to contact you?!
Francis is alive!
But Cécile saw him!
Francis is dead. There's no point in you going there only to have to go through what you did five years ago
It's better for you if you don't go. It's probably just as they said—a look-alike.


The answer is simple! Because he's dead! That's why he hasn't tried to contact you!
So why hasn't he contacted you in all this time?!
He could've figured out where you lived easily!
Nathalie...
and I agree with her...
B-But... Cécile said... there must be... a reason why he...
Nathalie... look around you...
And your book's a hit...
Robert cares about you.
and be happy
You can live your life here,
You have to find your own happiness. You can't continue to be as you are now.
but it's better if you just forget about this whole thing.
I understand how you might want to believe her...

I want to make sure I want to see for myself if it's Francis or not
Nathalie!
I'm going to go and try to find him
I'm sorry Elaine
I...
I can't do anything... I can't concentrate...
I can't just pretend like nothing's happened...
Francis might be alive...
Seeing you like this makes me afraid to fall in love
finally give up on Francis...
This is the last time if... if it turns out to be the wrong person...
then I'll...


I wonder... even if you don't end up being with the person, and even if you go through many hardships, if you get to experience such a love then aren't you blessed?
I was always envious of Nathalie.
She had someone she cared for deeply,
and she held in her hands a love she'd be willing to put her life on the line for.
Does the true meaning of unhappiness lie with Nathalie, who's crying over the one she loves,
or does it lie with me, who can only helplessly watch her like this without truly understanding what she's going through?
I've never experienced the joys or sorrows of being in love,
but I do know that everyone wants to be happy.
Everyone walks with their hands reaching towards the happiness that they pray awaits them at their goal.


In what direction it goes is anyone's guess
Love is a seesaw game between sorrow and happiness
I know this story
At the wedding of the prince and princess, the bad witch changes everyone into the prince
There are so many of him that everyone's panicking
Daddy! Read me this book!
I borrowed it from the girl who lives next door!
No one knows who the real prince is even though it's his and the princess's wedding day!
But the princess knows right away who the real prince is!
And it says it's because she loves him!

Well
Daddy, what does it mean to "love" someone?
Is it like how I love you and mommy?
that's when you'll realize the difference
When you grow up and you find someone whom you care about much more than your mother and me
It's similar but it's a little different
I'm sure y'll find 'im sooner than later
We've got lotsa islands round ere
What?
Girlie, did you find the person you were looking for?
and you want to keep her only to yourself
When you feel as if you want to protect her and you want her to be by your side,
that's called love

How do you read her name?
Daddy this person looks like Mommy!
Oh, so her name's Nathalie...
Nathalie Rome
Nathalie
Nathalie~
Nathalie~
Nathalie~
No...
Daddy do you know her?

Why do I feel as if I'm being swept away by the waves?
I've never even met her
What is this feeling?
Thank you.
You'd do best asking at the town hall
Y'll find im rights way.
Thank you.
If you go that way you can catch a bus that'll take you there.
Excuse me do you know where I can find the town hall?

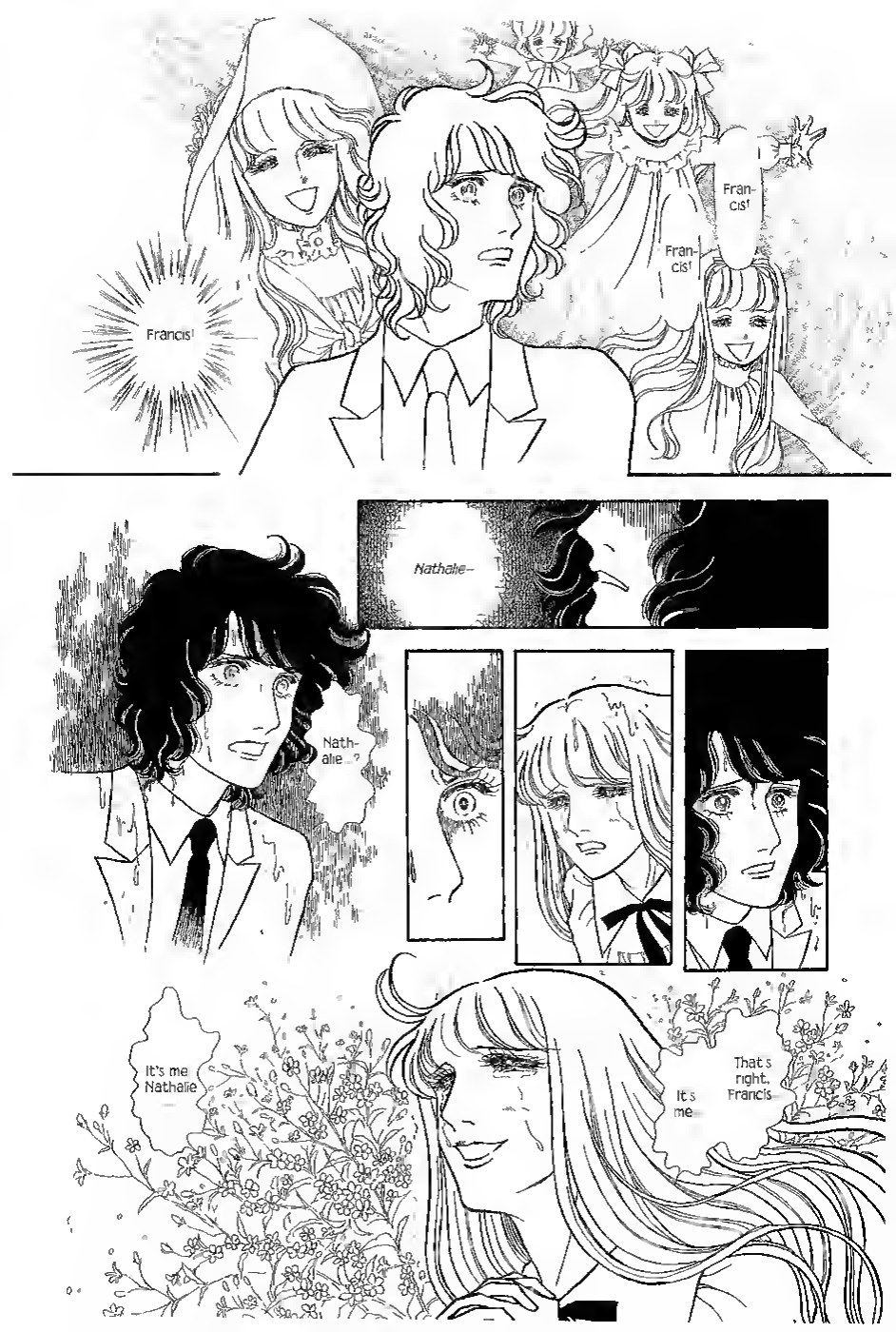
Okay!
Marco! It's starting to rain so come inside!
Huh?
What is it?
Oh is that right?
Are you going to the town hall? My daddy works there.
Good-bye
See you!
Her picture was in the book that daddy read to me today!
Is that right?
Mommy I know her!
He reminds me of Francis when he was younger.
What an adorable child

Mommy don't you think she looks like you? That's probably why he was so interested in the photo
He said he didn't know her but he looked at her picture for a really long time!
Daddy looked really surprised when he saw her picture!
Don't tell me she's...
but there's no sign of Francis.
I've been searching for him for a while now
The clouds are shifting... I wonder if a storm is approaching?
Maybe this was a mistake
Perhaps Elaine was right

FRANCIS!

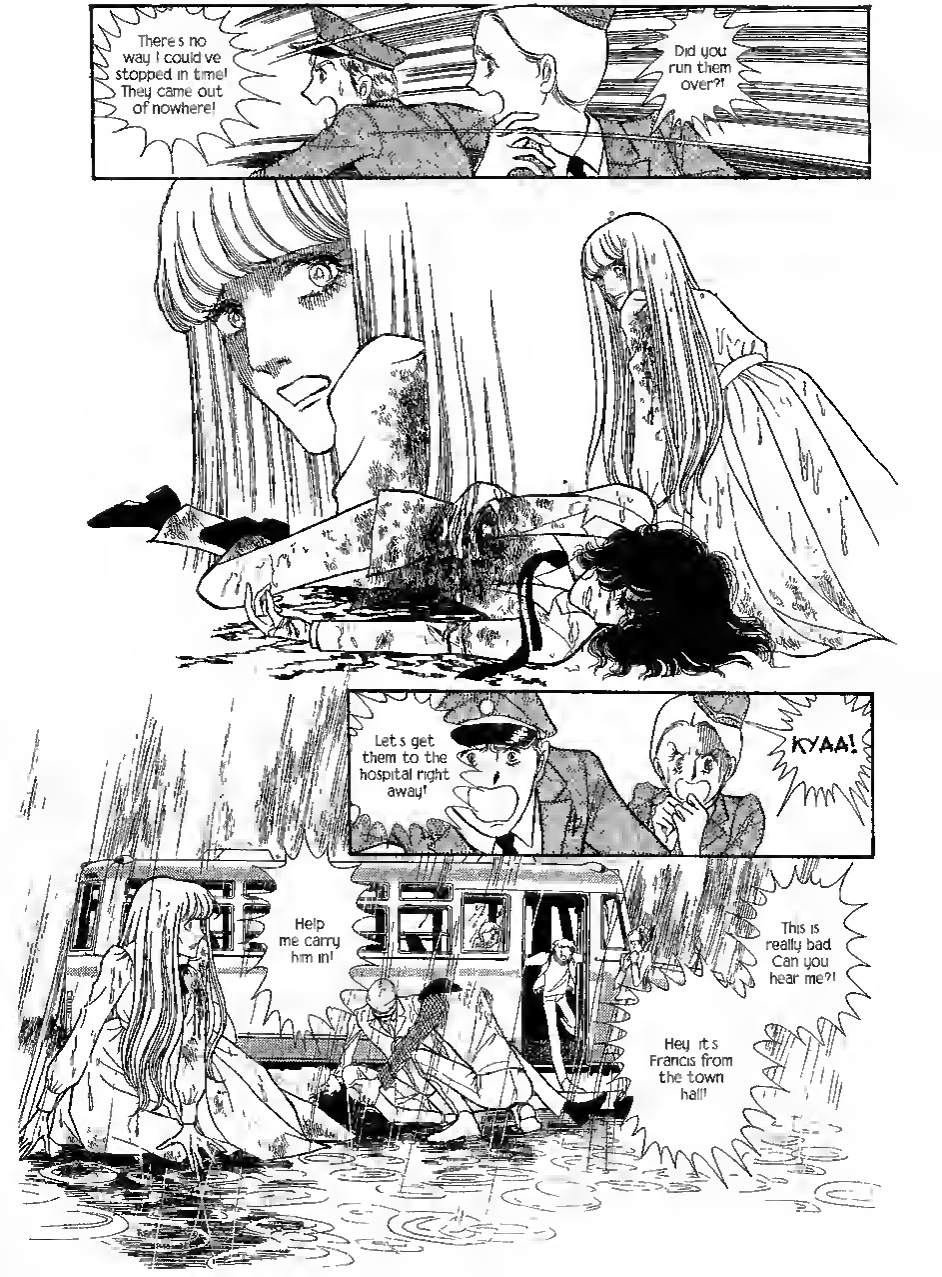
There's no mistaking it. It's Francis!
It's Francis.
M-My feet won't move
Francis...is right in front of my very eyes, and I...
I-It's me, Francis
I've been searching all over for you, Francis
It's me

It's me...
Francis...
Fran-cis!
Fran-cis!
Fran-cis!


Francis!
Fran-cis!
Fran-cis!
Nathalie-
Nath-alie...?
It's me Nathalie
It's me
That's right, Francis

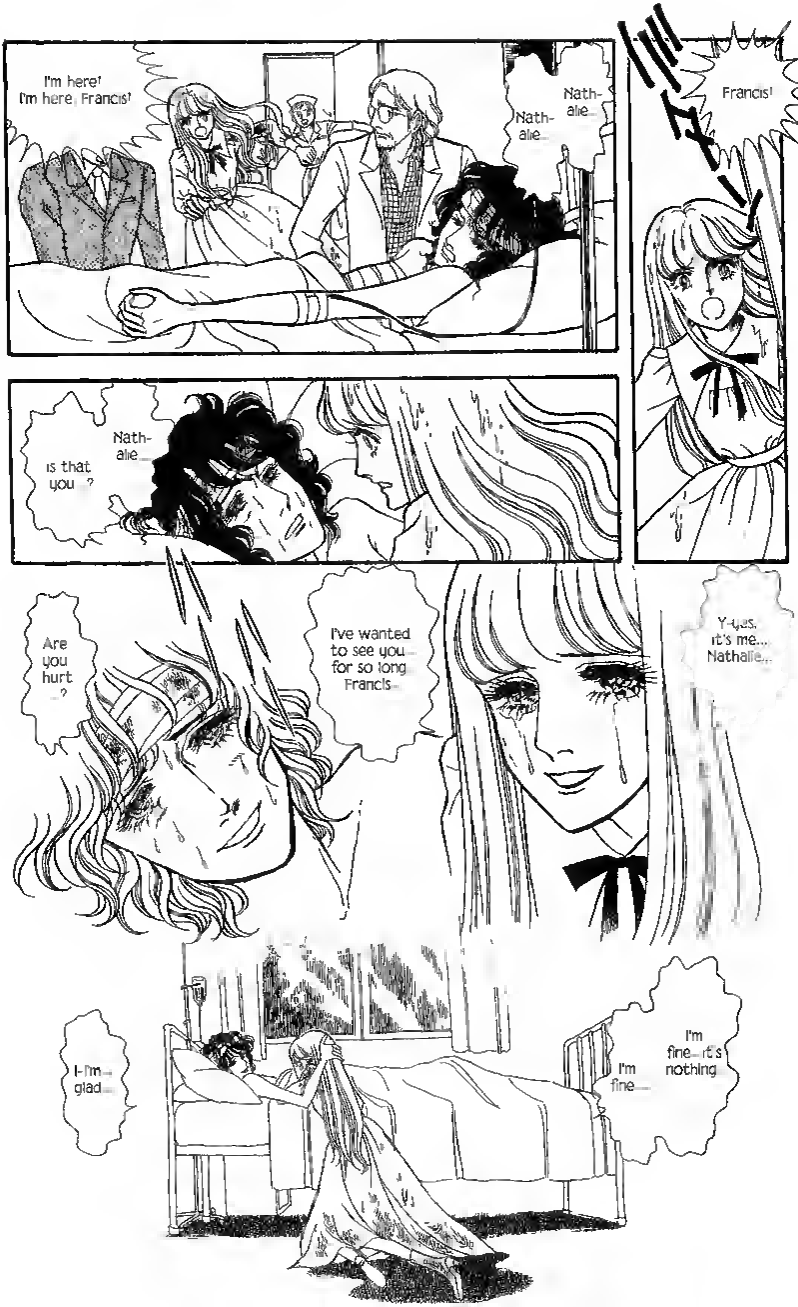
Nath-
alie...!
Nath-
alie...
ヨロッ!
NATHALIE!
FRANCIS!

WHOA!
KYAAAAAA!

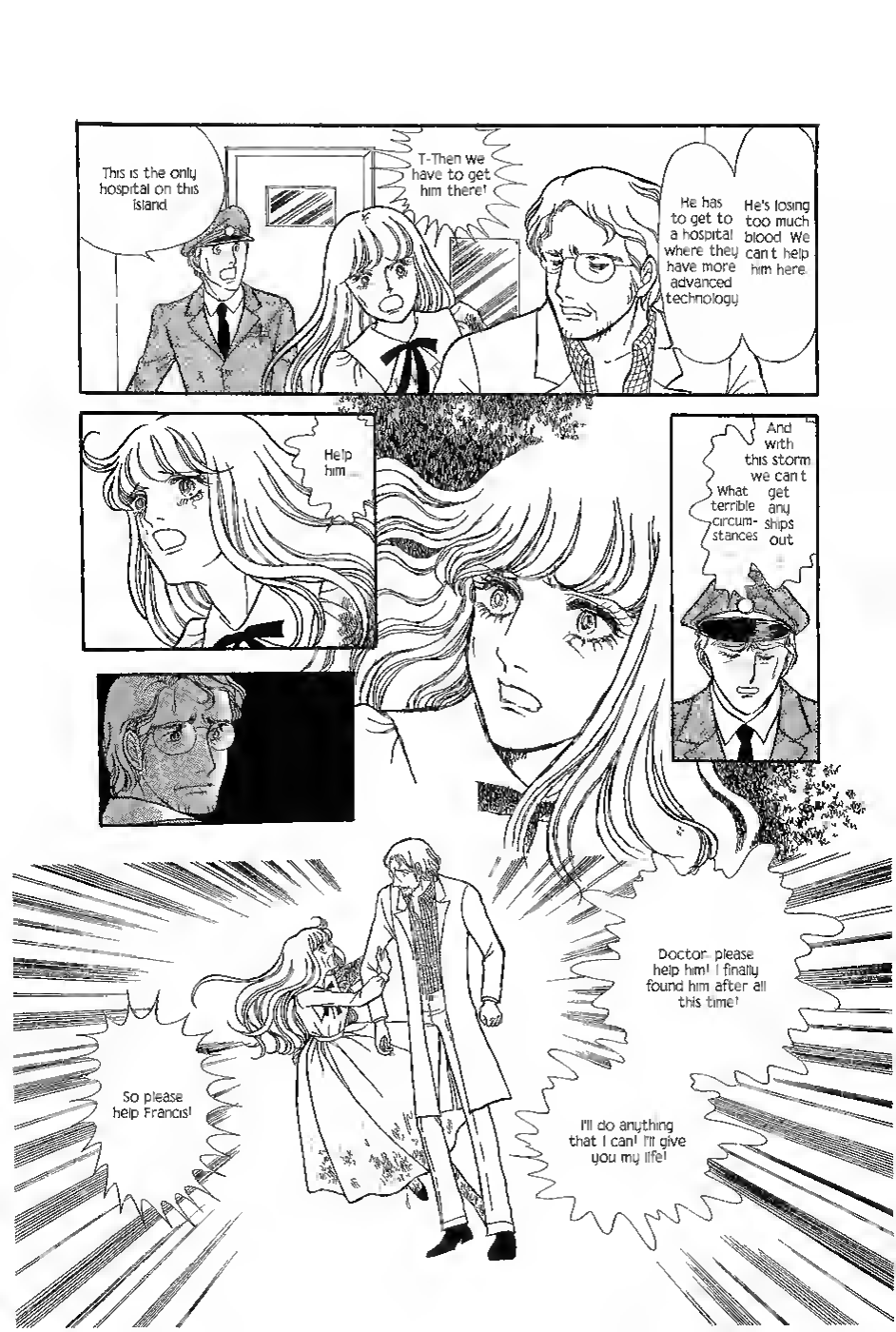

There's no way I could've stopped in time! They came out of nowhere!
Did you run them over?!
Let's get them to the hospital right away!
KYAA!
Help me carry him in!
This is really bad. Can you hear me?!
Hey, it's Francis from the town hall!

I finally found him. I searched and searched and I finally found him.
W-Why...
Miss, you get in too! You're hurt mighty badly!
WHY?!
Why did this have to happen?!
FRANCIS! FRANCIS!
Just get in the bus. Quickly!
Don't take Francis away from me!
God, please don't take him away from me!

Please help Francis! I've suffered enough already. Please don't make me suffer even more
Please! Don't take him away from me!
I'm going to see Francis! He's calling for me!
LET GO OF ME!
AHHH!
Nathalie
You mustn't! We haven't treated you yet!
The doctor is with Francis, so he's in safe hands!
Nathalie


I'm here! I'm here, Francis!
Nath-alie...
Nath-alie...
Francis!
Nath-alie...
Is that you ?
Are you hurt ?
I've wanted to see you for so long Francis...
Y-yes, it's me... Nathalie...
I-I'm glad...
I'm fine...
I'm fine—it's nothing

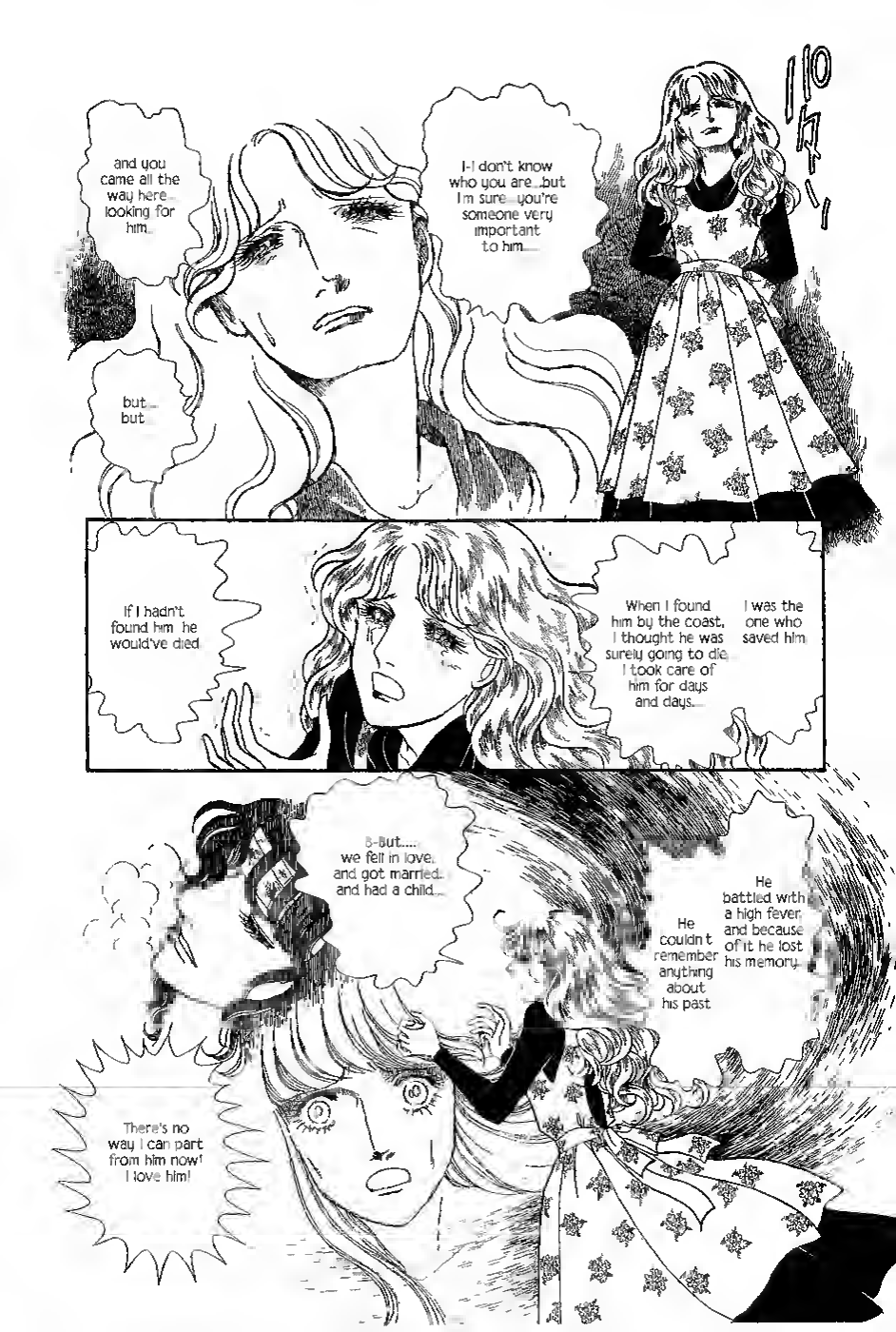
It's no good! We can't keep up with the blood loss--
he's losing too much blood!
Doctor, we don't have enough blood supply in our inventory!
UUUHHHH...
Francis!
Stay back!
Yes!
Get me the hemostatic! And the morphine!
He'll be fine won't he? Tell me he'll be okay!
Answer me Doctor! He'll be okay won't he?!
Doc-tor!
HE'LL BE OKAY, WON'T HE?!


This is the only hospital on this island
T-Then we have to get him there!
He has to get to a hospital where they have more advanced technology
He's losing too much blood We can't help him here
Help him...
What terrible circum-stances
And with this storm we can't get any ships out
Doctor, please help him! I finally found him after all this time!
I'll do anything that I can! I'll give you my life!
So please help Francis!

Darling!
Please help him
Help Francis
Daddy!!!
Ah

AH...ah...
"Darling?!"
"Daddy?!"
Why?!
Mommy! Daddy's bleeding!
But he's bleeding a lot!
C-Come here, Marco...
Y-You shouldn't touch daddy.
That's what it seems...
It seems Francis has regained his memory.
She's his lover, isn't she?
Doctor
Y-Yes
Josée please let me know right away if his condition worsens
We're giving him painkillers right now

If we don't get him to a more advanced hospital then all we can do is watch him die
There's nothing we can do for him here.
No time for that now Start contacting all the boat captains you can
Oh how could this happen
Poor girl... she must've been searching for him for a very long time...
Yeah!
Wait outside, Marco
Daddy will be fine
You were able to find the town hall right away right?
Hey!
Francis' child
No wonder they look alike
Y... yes...


and you came all the way here... looking for him...
but... but...
I-I don't know who you are...but I'm sure... you're someone very important to him.....
If I hadn't found him he would've died.
When I found him by the coast, I thought he was surely going to die. I took care of him for days and days...
I was the one who saved him.
S-But..... we fell in love, and got married... and had a child...
He couldn't remember anything about his past.
He battled with a high fever, and because of it he lost his memory.
There's no way I can part from him now! I love him!

He's my husband!
Please... don't take him away from me...
I'll do anything else that you want me to...
Just, please don't take Marco's father away from him!
I want to spend the rest of my days with him!
t-then... I wouldn't be able to ...live–
b-but... if he leaves me...
T-To you... I must come across as a terrible woman...

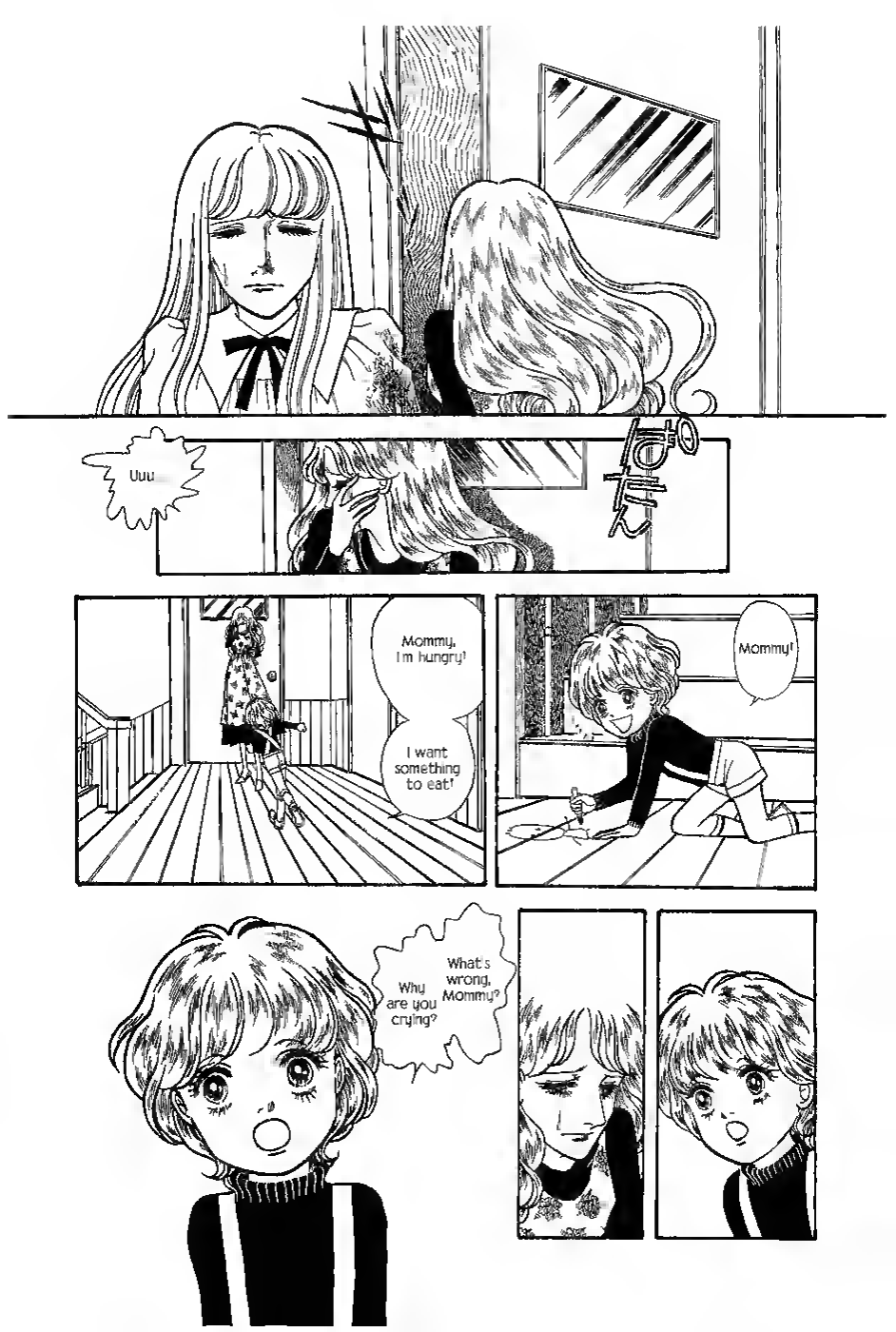
She has beautiful blonde hair...
They fell in love...
She seems very kind-hearted...
and had an adorable child...
he's lived his days until now seeing only her in his reflection
NO!
I've loved Francis ever since I was little!
She's not the one! She's not the one who's supposed to be by his side!
Francis is my everything!

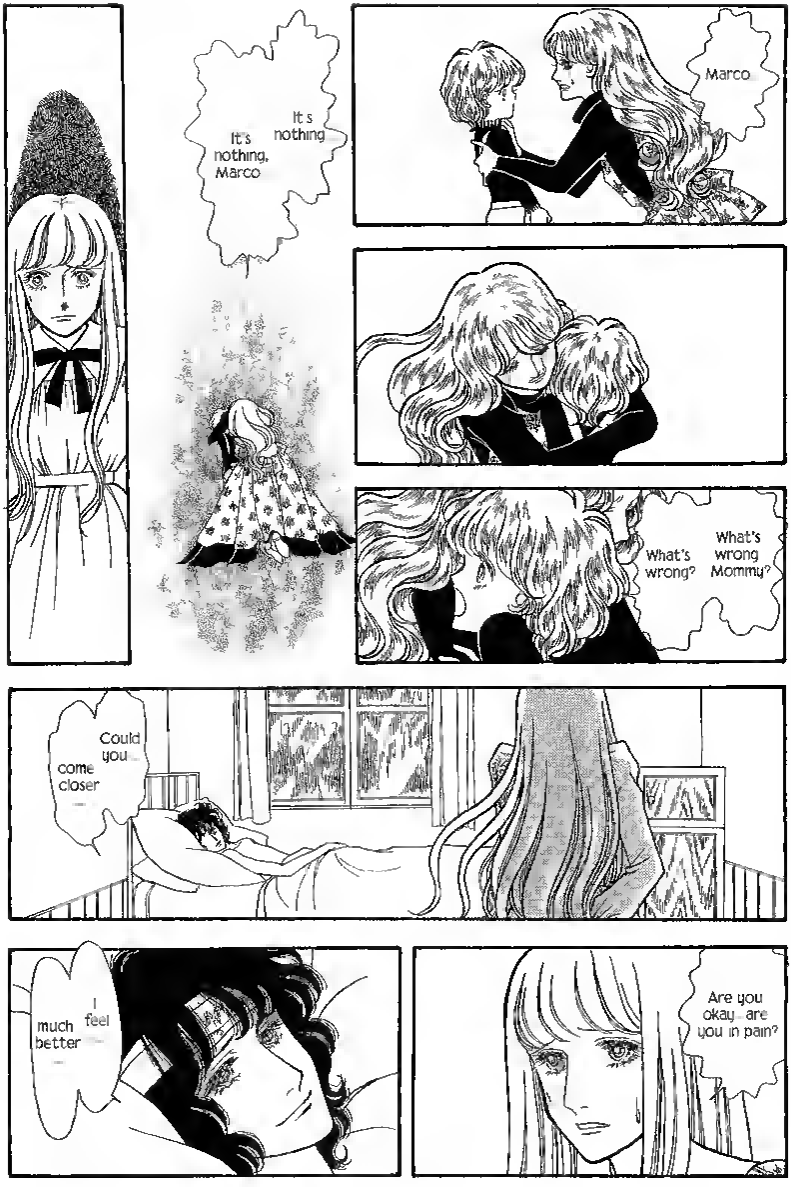
And on top of that, she wants to steal Francis away from me?
These five years that I've spent in agony
this person's spent being with Francis...
No more!
I can't take this anymore!
Don't look at me like that!
Don't cling onto me!
Let me go!

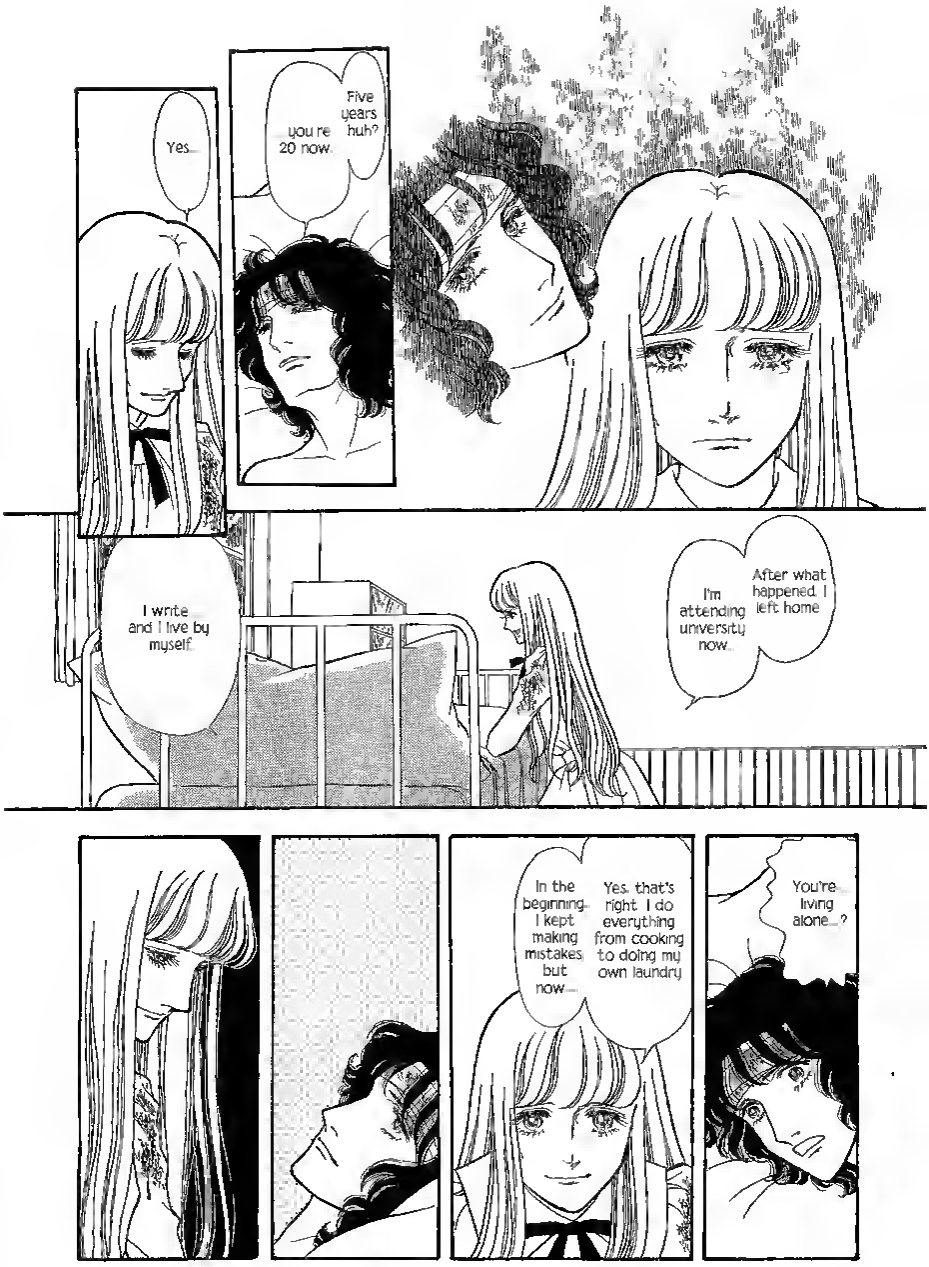
"Francis..."
"Francis!"
"I'm going to hold these flowers and be your bride!"
"Look these are pretty don't you think?"
"I'm a good girl so I can be your bride right?"
"I want to grow up right away"
"That's a promise Francis"
"That's a promise Francis"

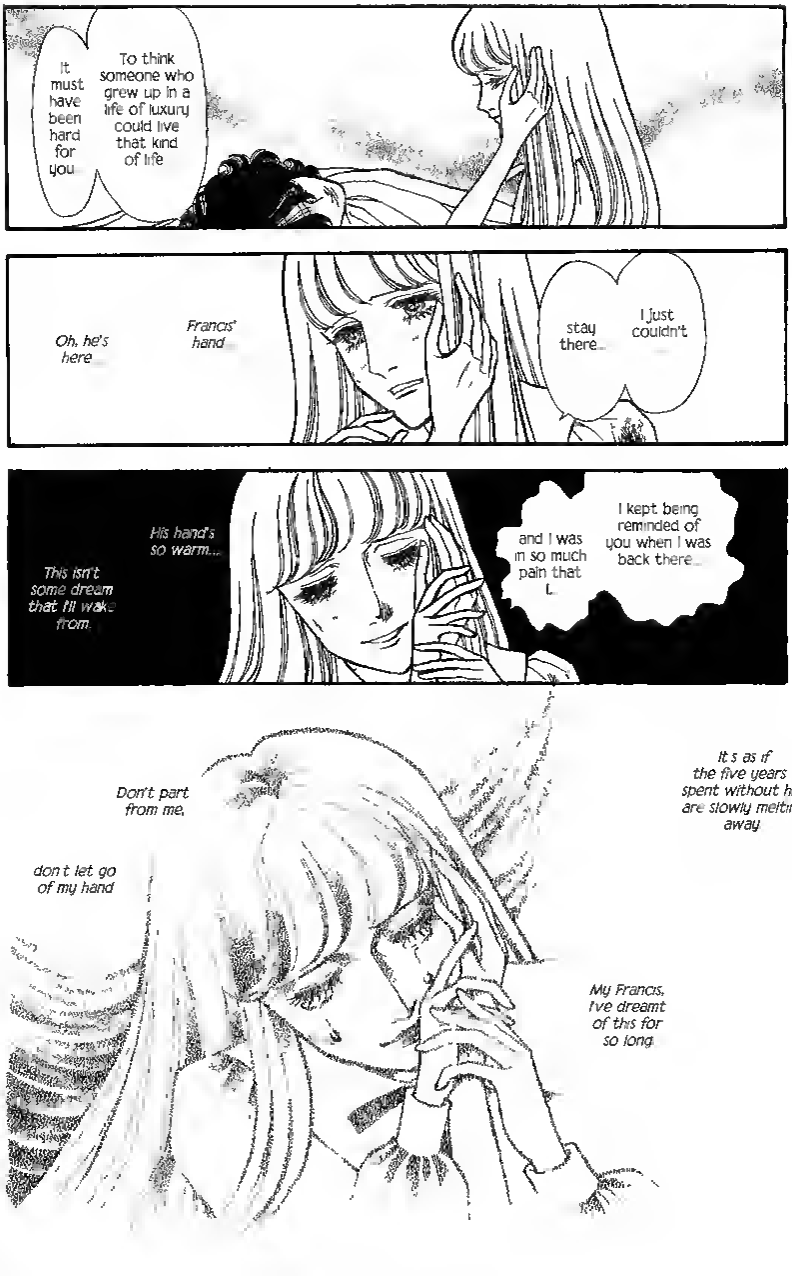
Y-Yes ?
Josée...
No...
Darling are you all right?
Shall I go call for the doctor?
I was so worried, darling...
I...

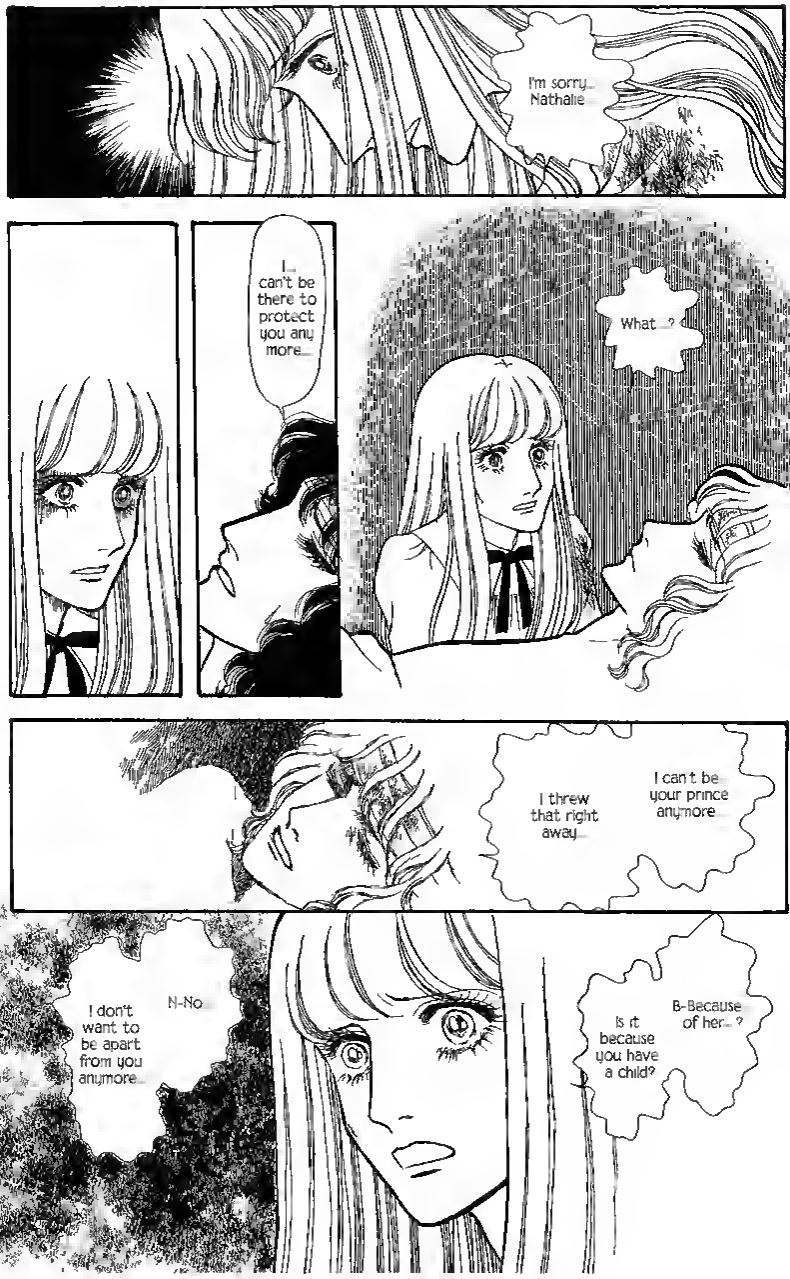
Could you give us some time alone?
Y-Yes...

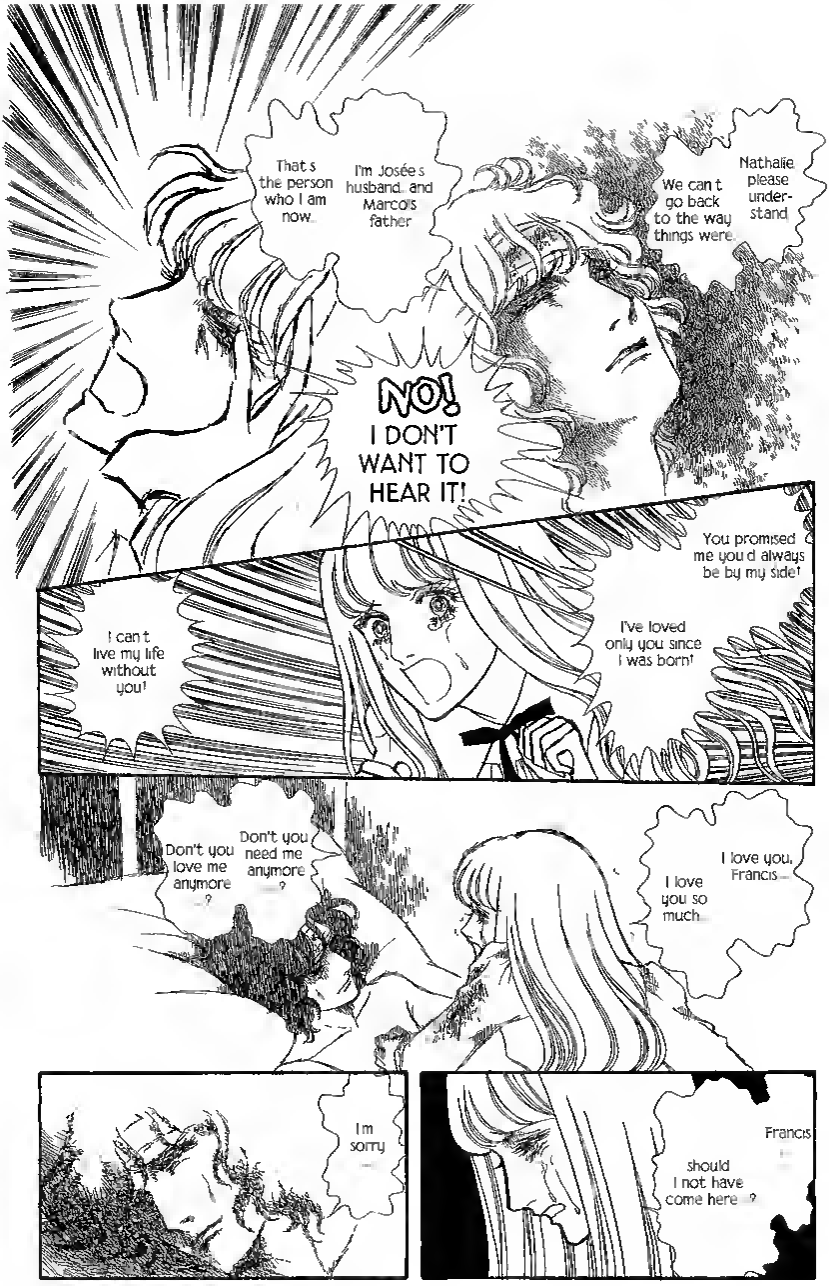

Uuu
Mommy, I'm hungry!
I want something to eat!
Mommy!
What's wrong, Mommy?
Why are you crying?

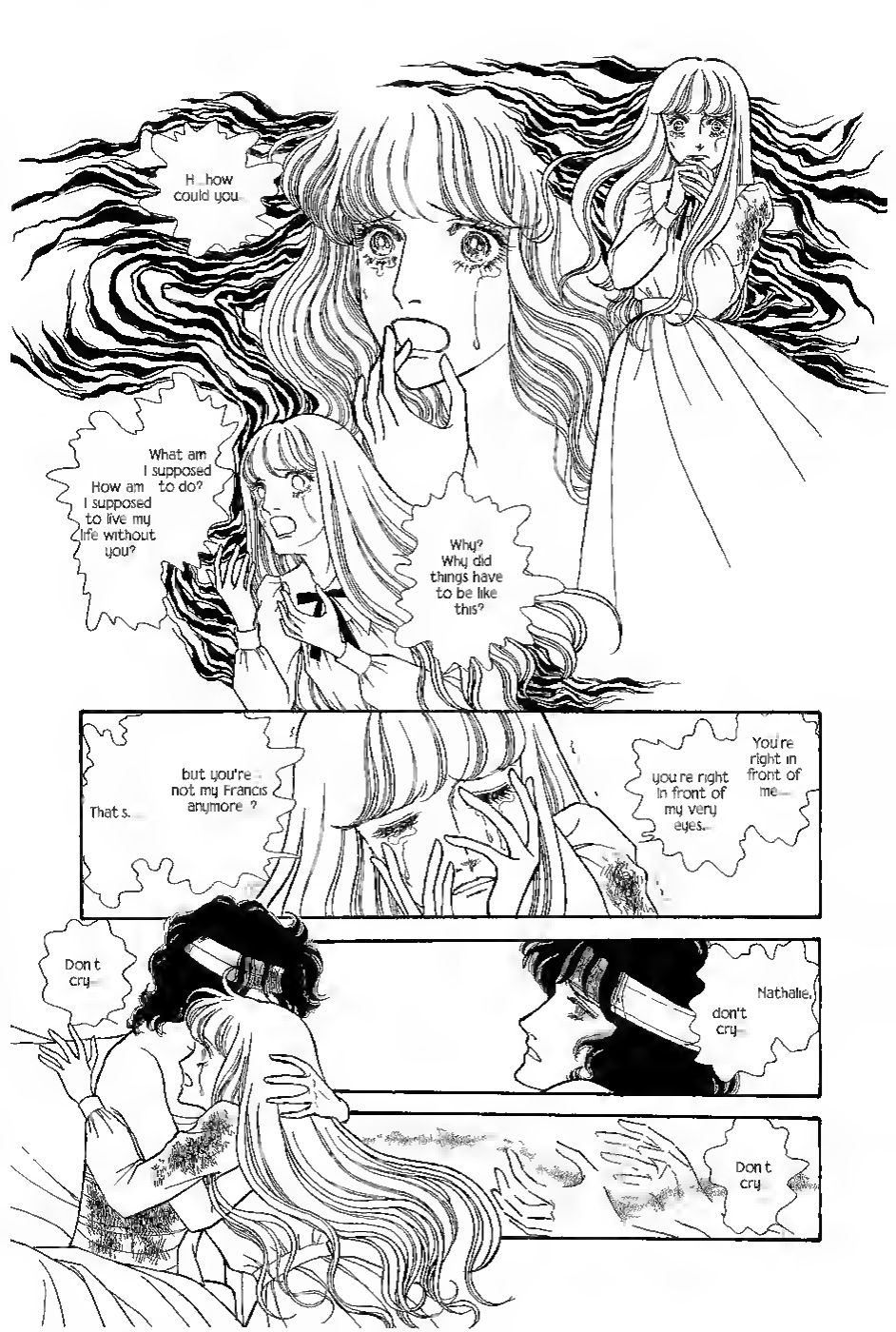

It's nothing, Marco
It's nothing
Marco
What's wrong?
What's wrong Mommy?
Could you come closer
I feel much better
Are you okay... are you in pain?

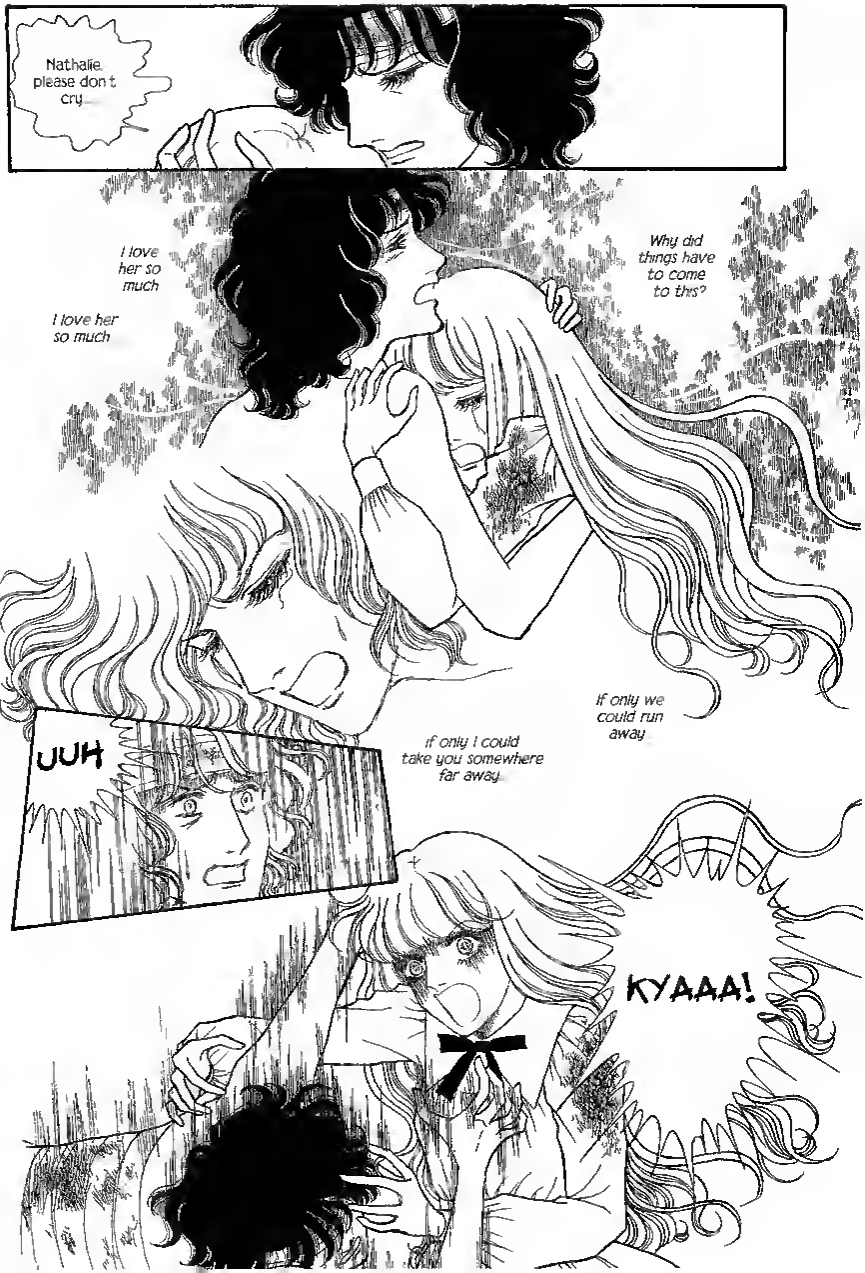

Yes...
Five years huh?
...you're 20 now.
After what happened, I left home
I'm attending university now...
I write... and I live by myself.
You're living alone...?
Yes, that's right. I do everything from cooking to doing my own laundry
In the beginning... I kept making mistakes but now...

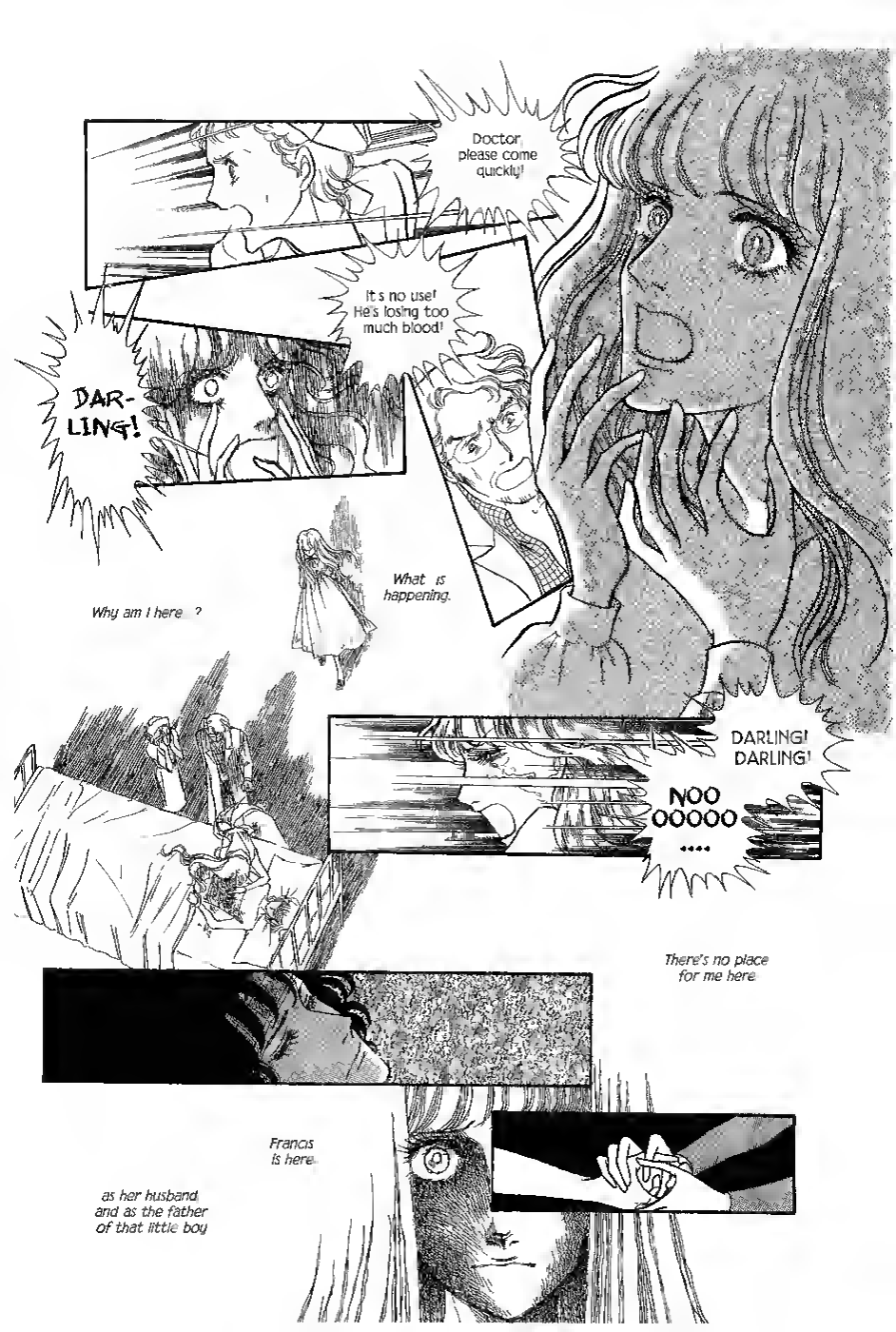

It must have been hard for you
To think someone who grew up in a life of luxury could live that kind of life
Oh, he's here
Francis' hand
I just couldn't stay there...
I kept being reminded of you when I was back there...
and I was in so much pain that I...
His hand's so warm...
This isn't some dream that I'll wake from.
Don't part from me,
don't let go of my hand
It's as if the five years I spent without him are slowly melting away
My Francis, I've dreamt of this for so long

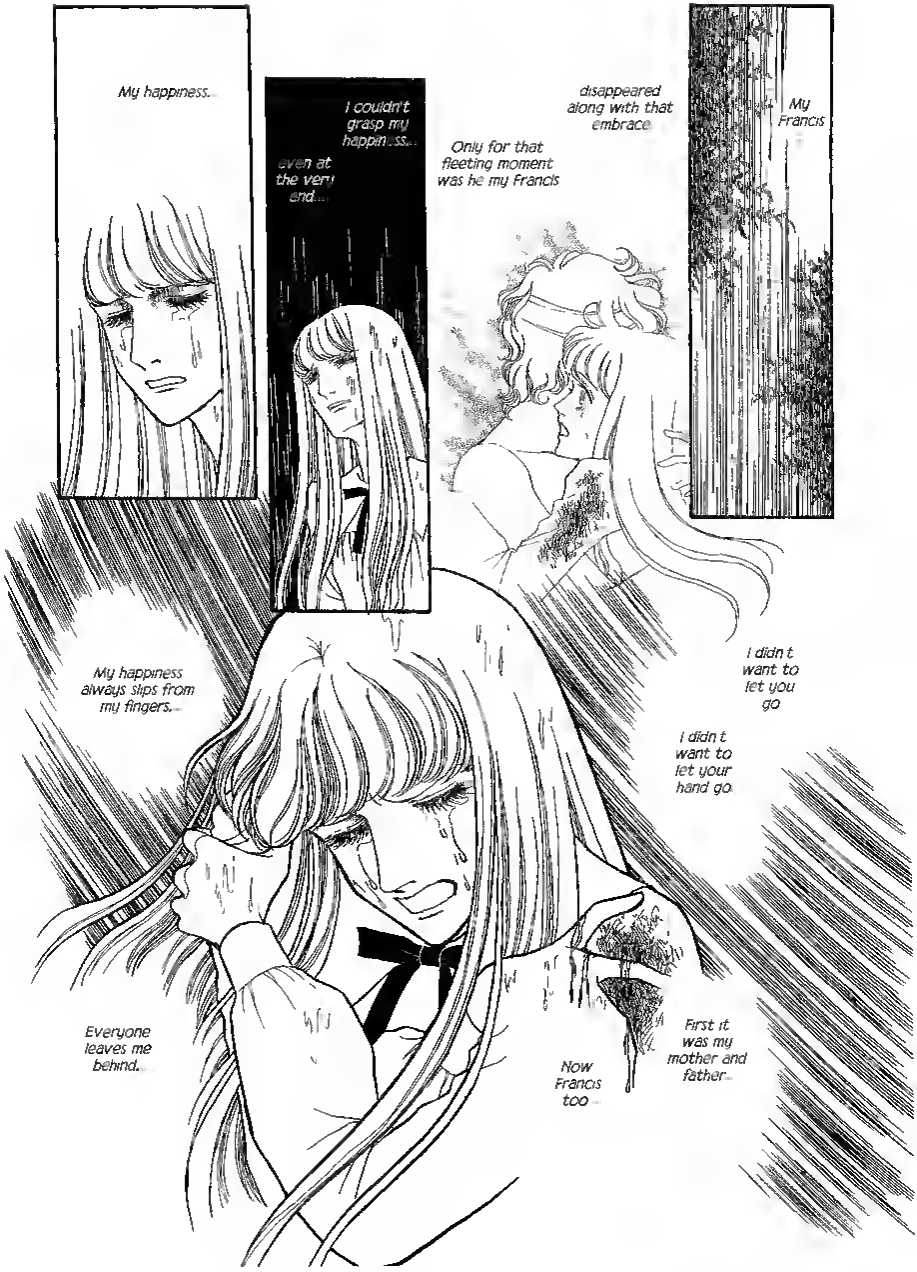

I'm sorry... Nathalie...
I... can't be there to protect you any more...
What...?
I can't be your prince anymore...
I threw that right away...
B-Because of her...?
Is it because you have a child?
N-No...
I don't want to be apart from you anymore...

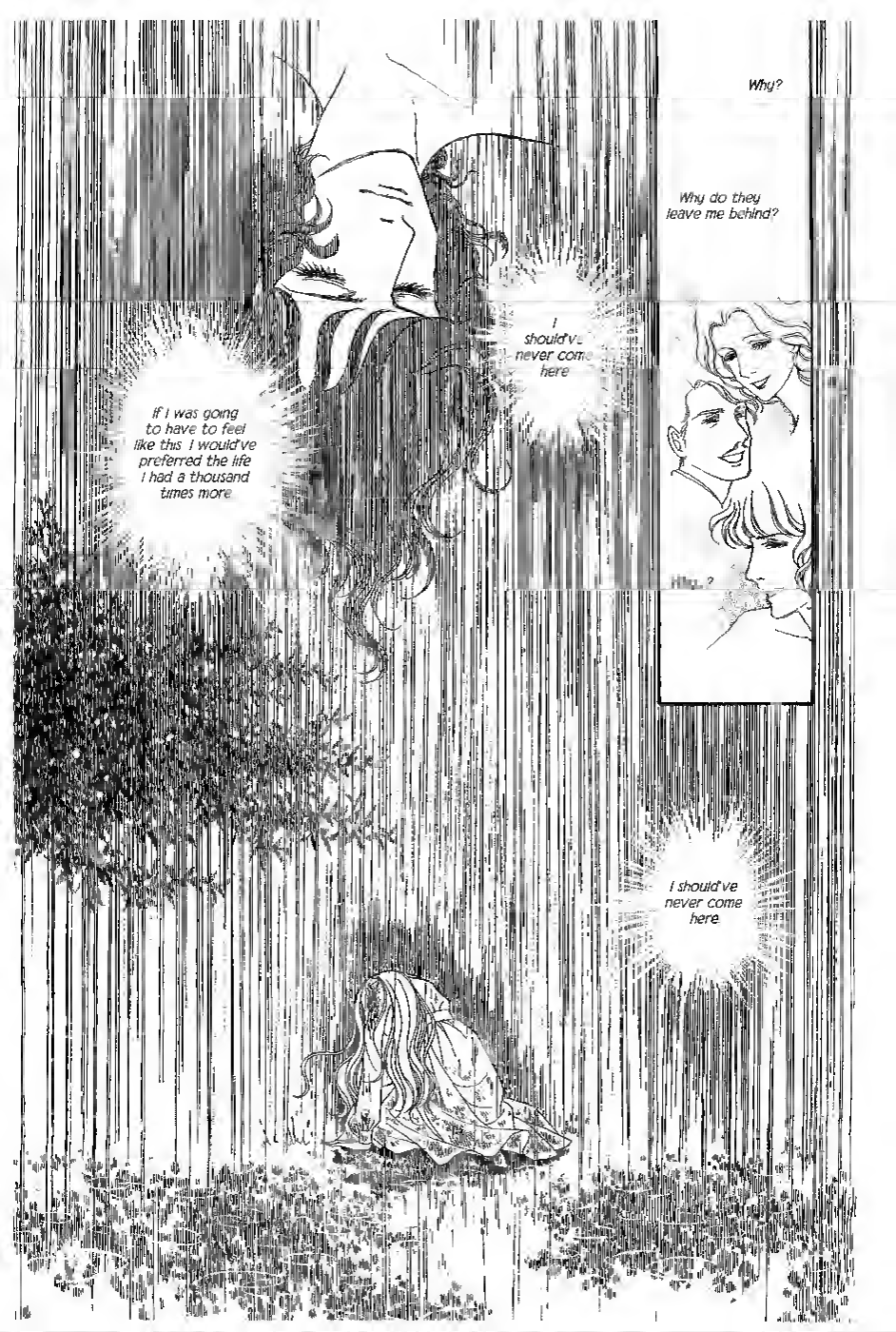

That's the person who I am now...
I'm Josée's husband, and Marco's father
Nathalie, please understand
We can't go back to the way things were.
NO! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
You promised me you'd always be by my side?
I've loved only you since I was born!
I can't live my life without you!
Don't you love me anymore...?
Don't you need me anymore...?
I love you, Francis...
I love you so much...
I'm sorry...
Francis...
should I not have come here...?


H...how could you...
What am I supposed to do?
How am I supposed to live my life without you?
Why? Why did things have to be like this?
That's...
but you're... not my Francis anymore...?
you're right in front of my very eyes...
You're right in front of me...
Don't cry...
Nathalie, don't cry...
Don't cry...

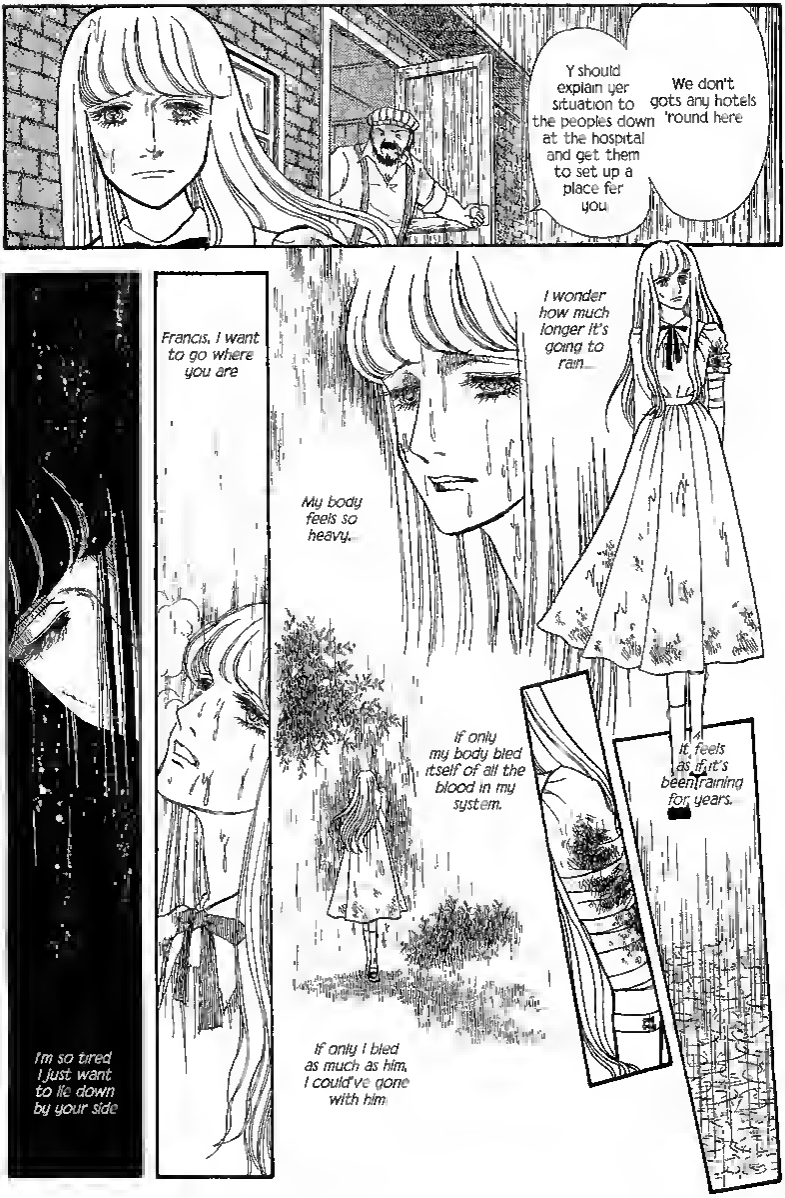

Nathalie, please don't cry...
I love her so much
I love her so much
Why did things have to come to this?
if only we could run away
if only I could take you somewhere far away
UUH
KYAAA!


Doctor, please come quickly!
It's no use! He's losing too much blood!
DAR-LING!
What is happening.
Why am I here...?
DARLING! DARLING!
NOO OOOOO ....
There's no place for me here.
Francis is here.
as her husband and as the father of that little boy

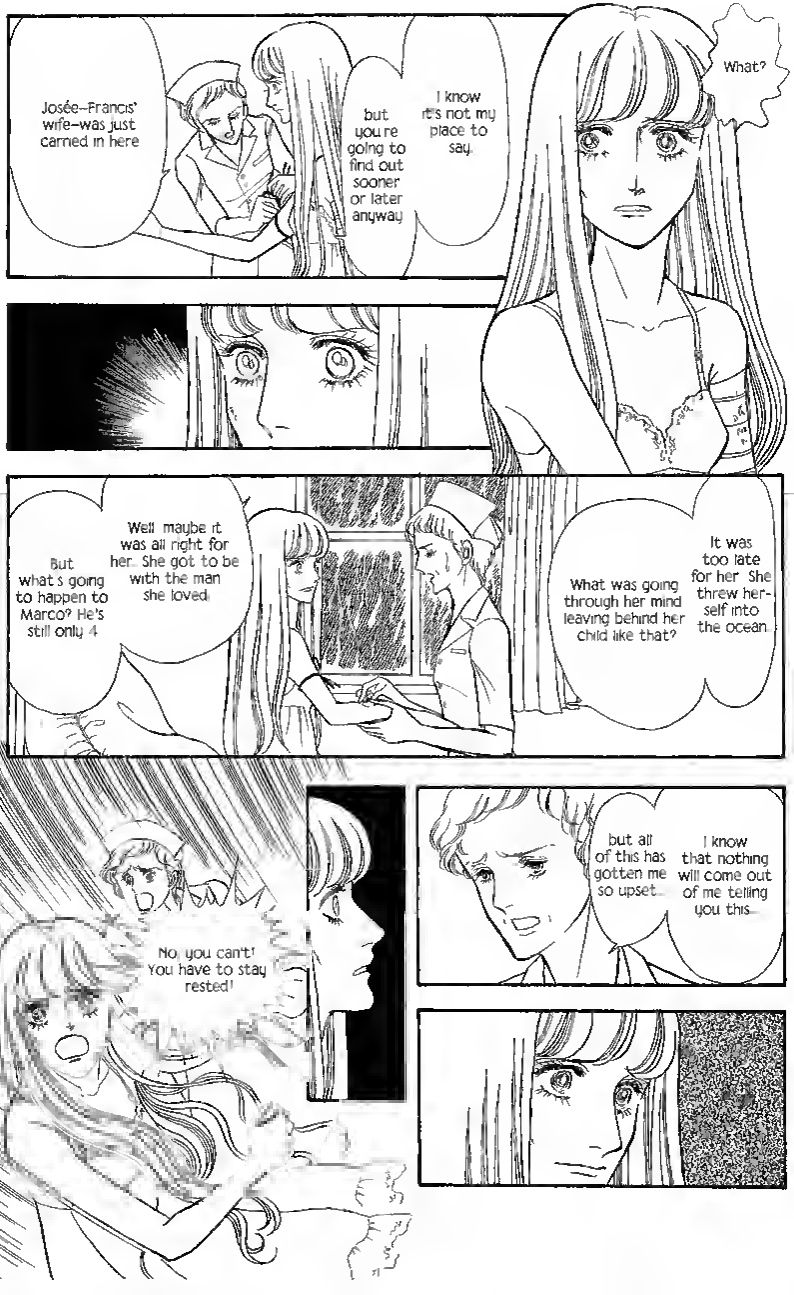

My happiness...
I couldn't grasp my happiness...
even at the very end...
Only for that fleeting moment was he my Francis
disappeared along with that embrace
My Francis
My happiness always slips from my fingers...
I didn't want to let you go
I didn't want to let your hand go
Everyone leaves me behind...
Now Francis too...
First it was my mother and father...


Why?
Why do they leave me behind?
I should've never come here
If I was going to have to feel like this I would've preferred the life I had a thousand times more
Why...?
I should've never come here

There's nothin' I can do...
I have to leave here... so please .....
Please ... I want to leave
If we coulda had a ship out, we would've helped Francis.
That ain't poss'ble with that storm brewin'.
A ship?
She just went, got right up and disappeared
We've got a mess in 'r hands what with Francis' wife gone missing
We've got bigger things to deal with right now
Everyone's desperately trying to find her 'cause they're right out worried she might try to follow his lead
She cared for Francis all right


We don't gots any hotels 'round here
Y should explain yer situation to the peoples down at the hospital and get them to set up a place fer you
I wonder how much longer it's going to rain...
My body feels so heavy...
If only my body bled itself of all the blood in my system.
It feels as if it's been raining for years.
If only I bled as much as him, I could've gone with him
Francis, I want to go where you are
I'm so tired I just want to lie down by your side

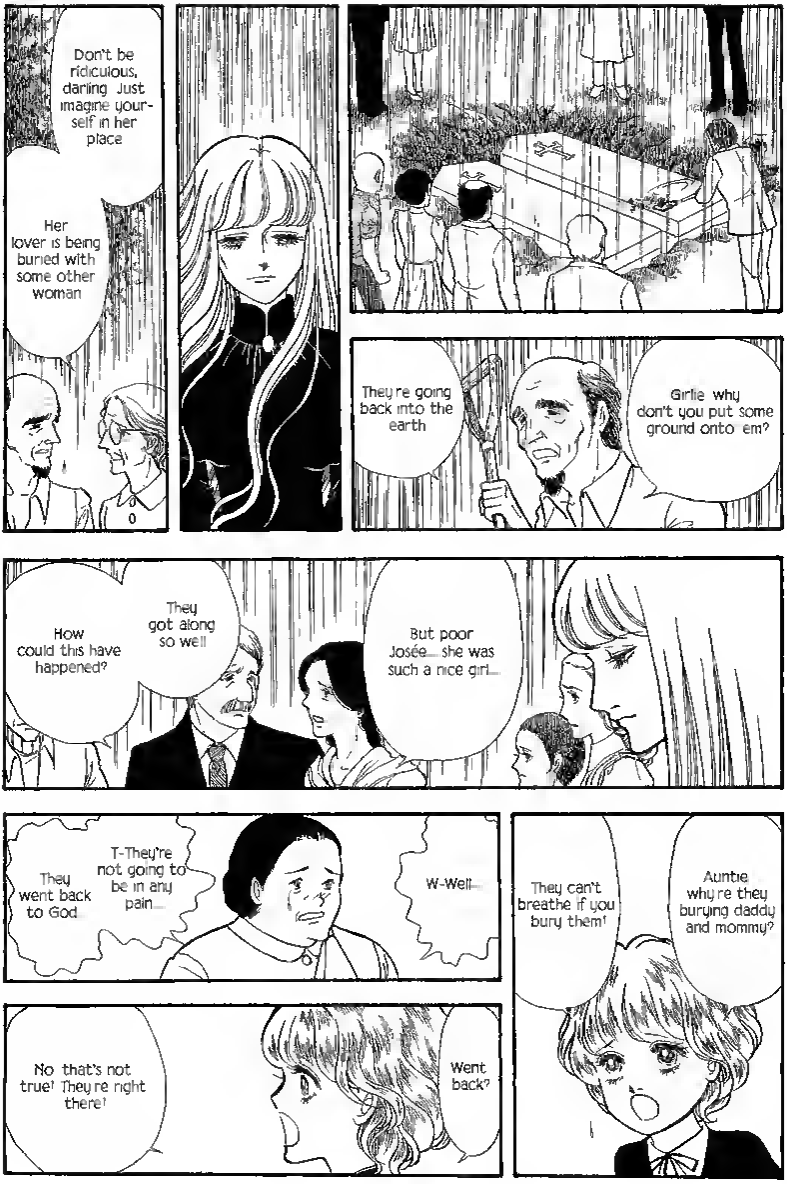
Are you awake?
What were you doing out there with your body in the condition that it was?
You were asleep for a whole day. You had a terrible fever, what with you being tired and the shock you went through
What do you think death could bring you?
Why does everyone run to death for answers?
I don't want to have to go through this again

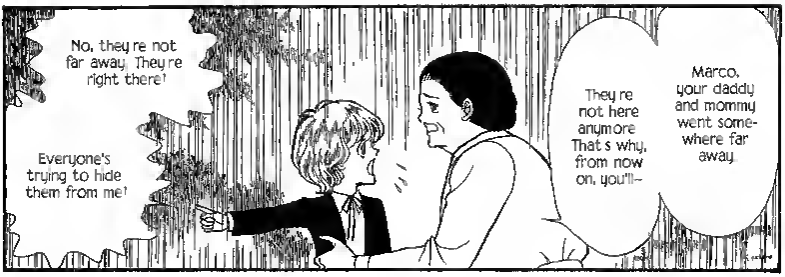

Josée–Francis' wife–was just carried in here
but you're going to find out sooner or later anyway
I know it's not my place to say
What?
But what's going to happen to Marco? He's still only 4
Well maybe it was all right for her. She got to be with the man she loved.
What was going through her mind leaving behind her child like that?
It was too late for her. She threw herself into the ocean.
No, you can't! You have to stay rested!
but all of this has gotten me so upset...
I know that nothing will come out of me telling you this...

No—No, how could this happen?!
No...

Stop!
Okay, you've seen her, now go back to your room!
No! How could you?! Y-You insist on being with Francis to the very end?!
Francis died as your husband!
He's mine!
He's mine, and you—!
What more did you want?! You could've lived forever as Francis' wife!
Yes!
Get the sedatives. Hurry!
Nooo oo!
Doctor! Doctor! Please come quickly!
T-There's nowhere for me to go...
Y-You want to tie down Francis, even in death?!
Give Francis back to me.
Give him back!

I can't even choose the path of death anymore
There's nowhere for me to go.


Don't be ridiculous, darling Just imagine yourself in her place
Her lover is being buried with some other woman
They're going back into the earth
Girlie why don't you put some ground onto 'em?
How could this have happened?
They got along so well
But poor Josée... she was such a nice girl...
They went back to God
T-They're not going to be in any pain...
W-Well...
No that's not true! They're right there!
Went back?
They can't breathe if you bury them!
Auntie why're they burying daddy and mommy?

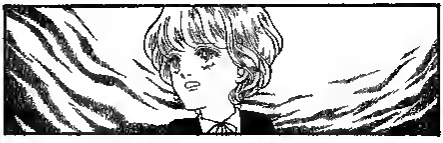

No, they're not far away. They're right there!
Everyone's trying to hide them from me!
They're not here anymore. That's why, from now on, you'll—
Marco, your daddy and mommy went somewhere far away.

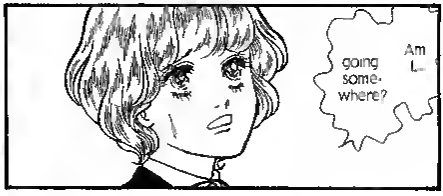
?...

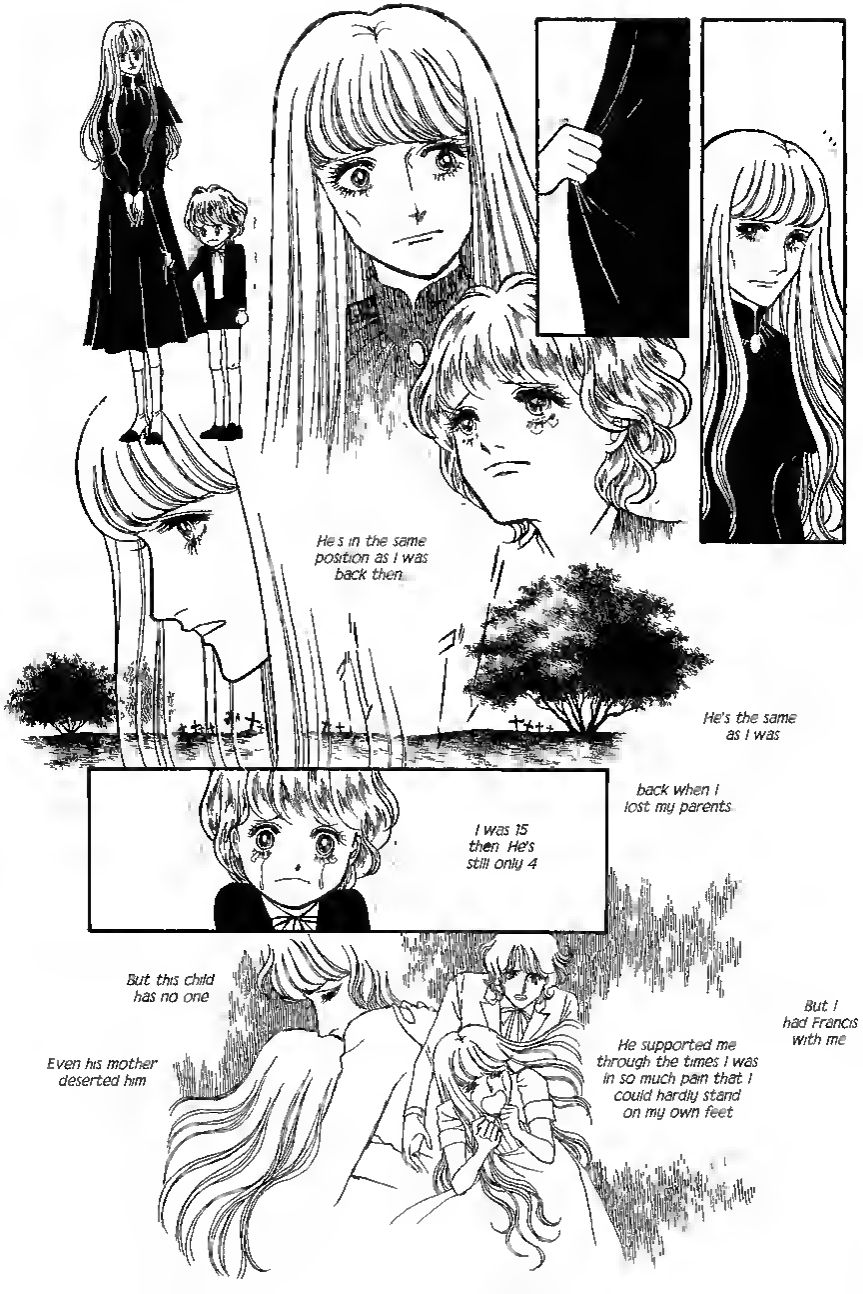
You can't bury them! They're not gonna be able to get out!
They're going to get hungry! You can't!

I guess the only place left for him to go is the orphanage...
Everyone's just barely making it as it is. There's no way we could take him in.
He doesn't have any relatives and what with all the people in this town as strapped as they are...
Poor child. What's going to happen to him?

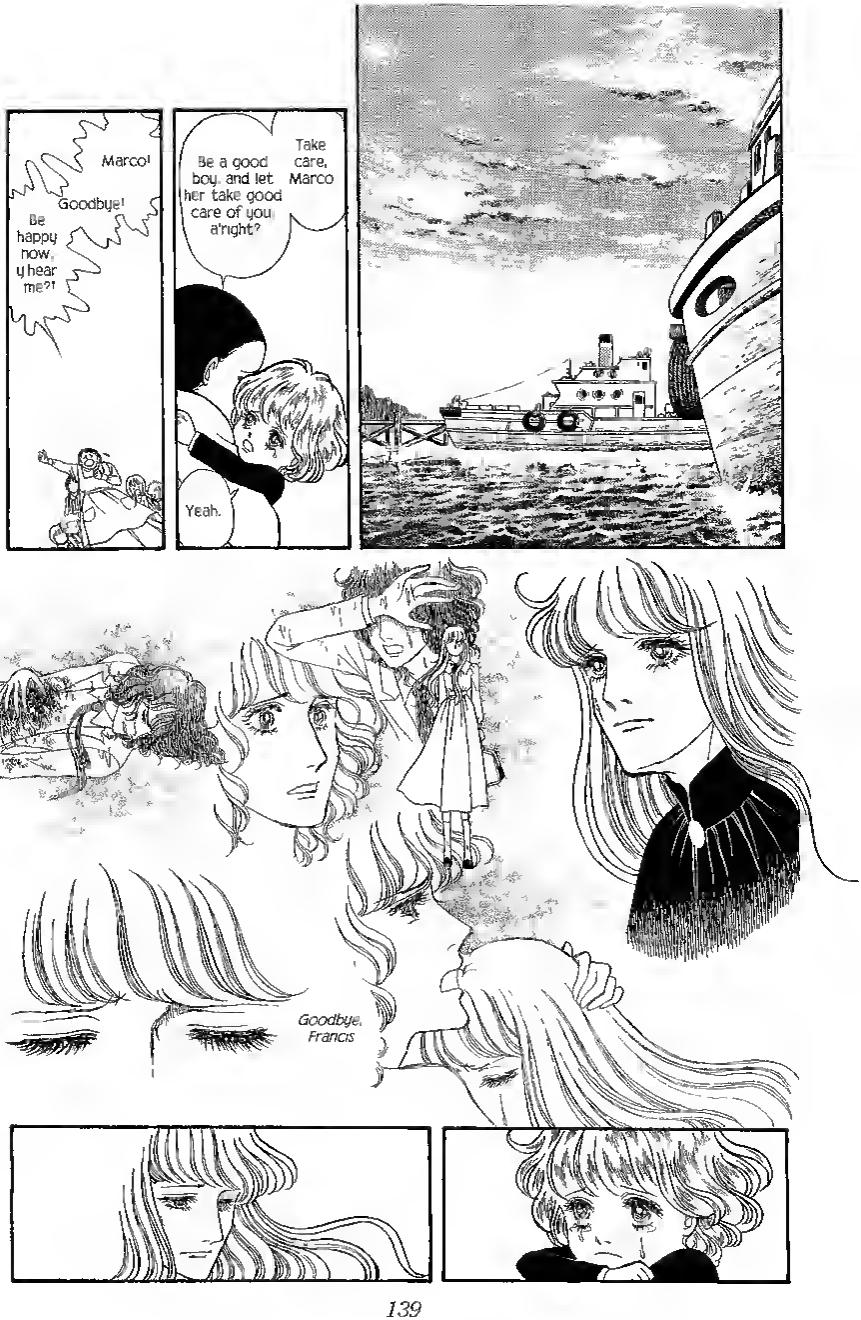
"And to think he'll have to go there..."
"They don't feed the children much at all."
"I heard it's an awful place."

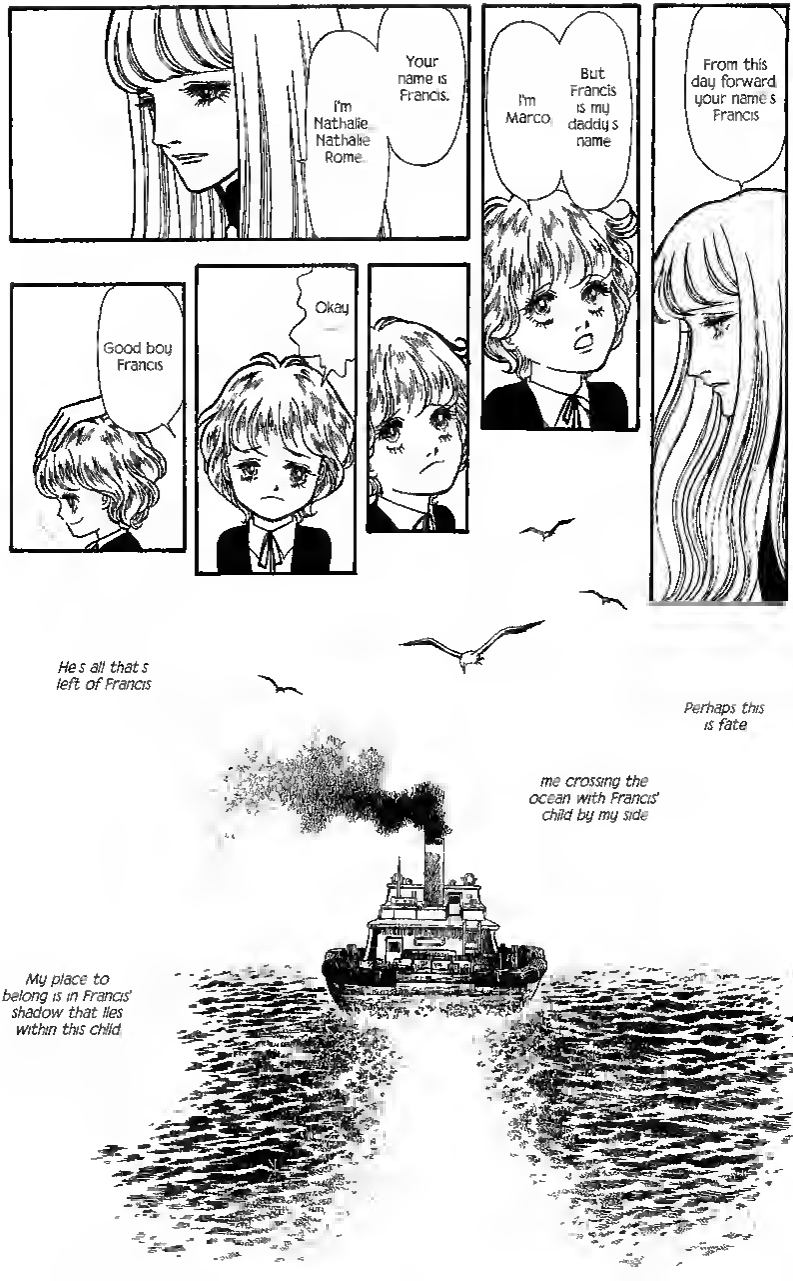


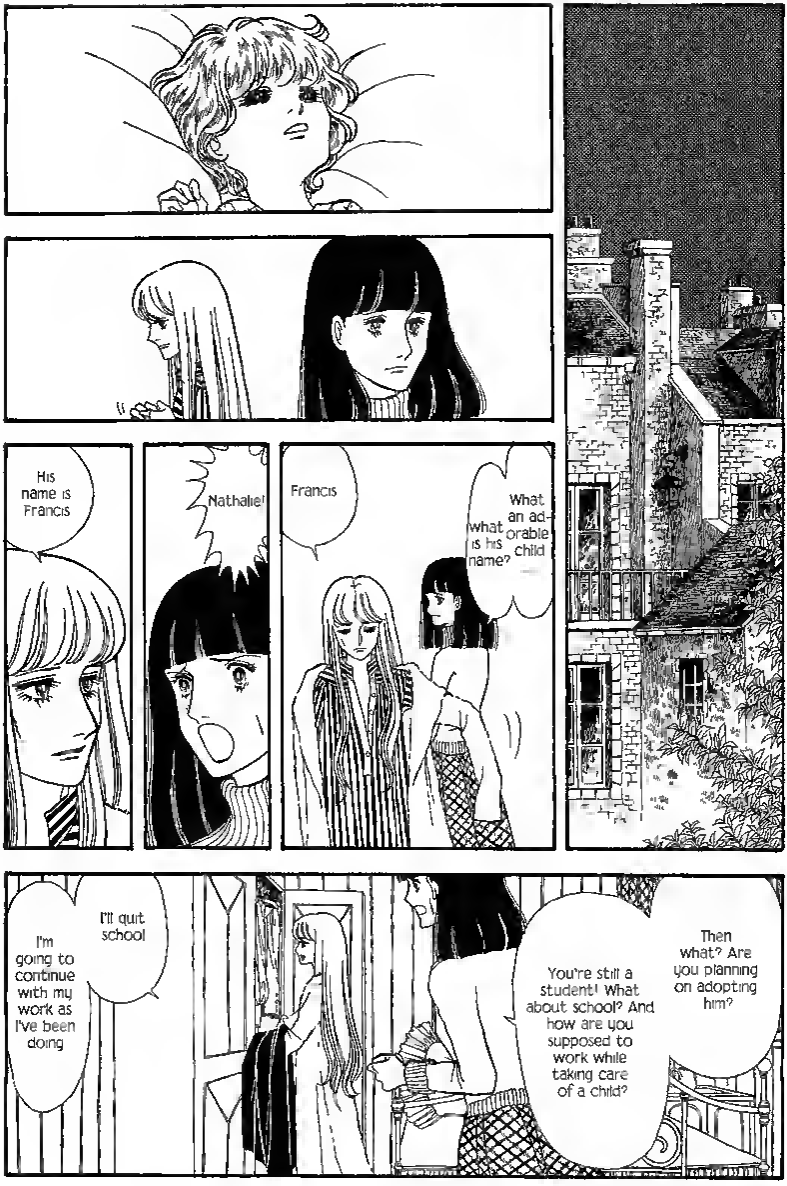

going somewhere?
Am I...


He's in the same position as I was back then
He's the same as I was back when I lost my parents
I was 15 then He's still only 4
But this child has no one
Even his mother deserted him
He supported me through the times I was in so much pain that I could hardly stand on my own feet
But I had Francis with me

He looks like Francis when he was left at the front steps of my home
Francis' child, who lost both his parents at the age 4
Francis' child...
He really does look like him...
Do you want to come with me?
I'll take care of him
He's Francis' child
but he's... Oh.
If no one can take care of him, I'll take him in


Marco!
Goodbye!
Be happy now, y hear me?!
Be a good boy, and let her take good care of you, a'right?
Take care, Marco
Yeah.
Goodbye, Francis

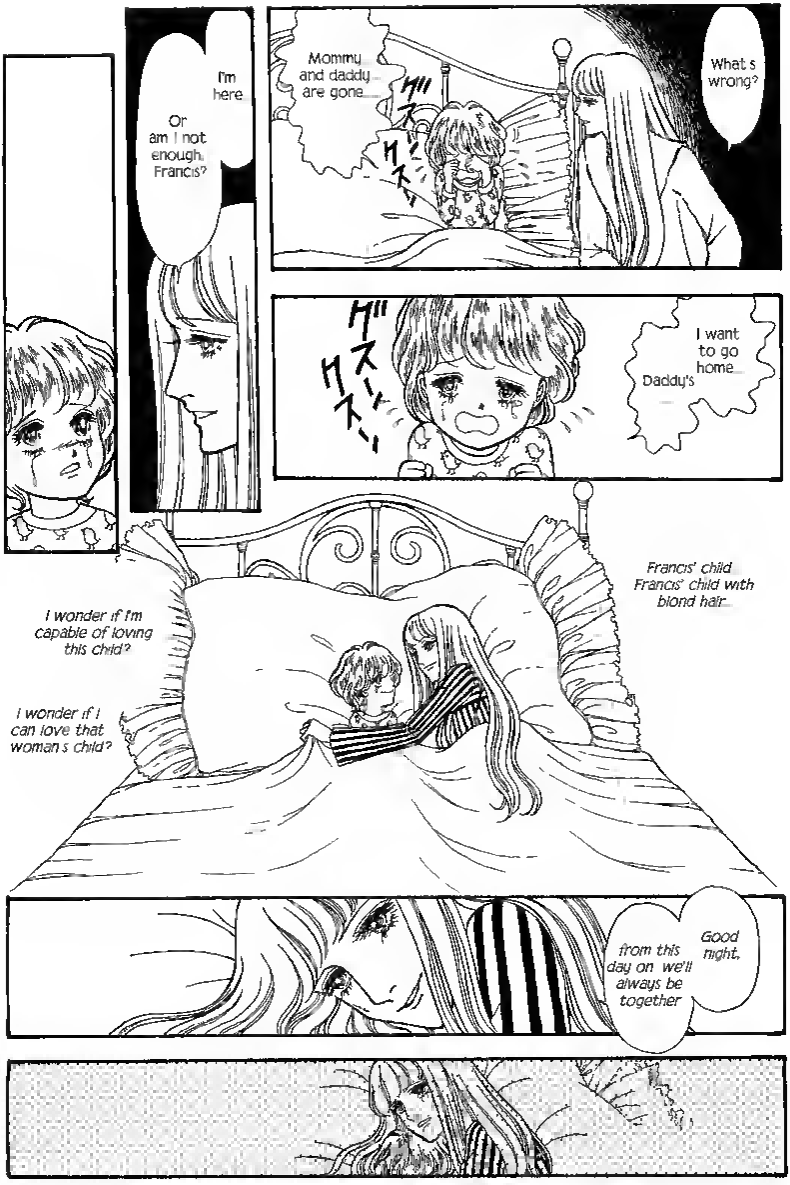

Your name is Francis.
I'm Nathalie. Nathalie Rome.
I'm Marco.
But Francis is my daddy's name
From this day forward your name's Francis
Okay
Good boy Francis
He's all that's left of Francis
Perhaps this is fate
me crossing the ocean with Francis' child by my side
My place to belong is in Francis' shadow that lies within this child

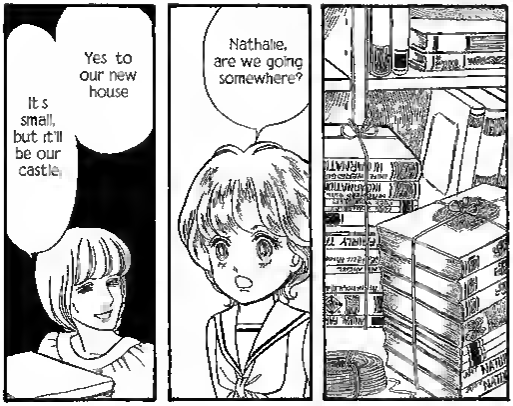

His name is Francis
Nathalie!
Francis
What an adorable child
what is his name?
I'm going to continue with my work as I've been doing
I'll quit school
You're still a student! What about school? And how are you supposed to work while taking care of a child?
Then what? Are you planning on adopting him?

Work is going well and I'll be able to make enough to support us.
I'll buy a house
That's only looking at the surface of the problem!
What I'm trying to get at is,
are you truly capable of loving him?!
Can you truly say you can still love him despite all that?!
Are you able to do that?!
Even if you don't mean to every time you look at him you'll be reminded of his mother!
Look at that blond hair of his!
Are you truly planning on living with the child of a woman who stole Francis from you?!
Yes, he is Francis' child and he does look a lot like him, but his mother is NOT you!
He's a child who was made between Francis and someone else!

I'm going to... live with him
Nathalie...
I won't say anything more
Just listen to me on this one. Don't take him in
It's better that way, for him and for you
He's Francis' child...
He's the only thing I have left...
Fine. You've always been like this. You do whatever you want.
and you never listen to what I have to say.

Goodbye, Nathalie! I won't come here again!
I don't want to see you suffer more than you already have!
Elaine!
But I'm sick and tired of this!
Fine then! Go and live as you please!
Elaine, that's not tr-
I'm sorry, Elaine I'm so sorry
She was my friend someone who always stood by me
I understand what you're trying to tell me, but still...
I'm sorry, Elaine...
the only way I can go on living is to do this...
Daddy...
M-Mommy...
Elaine...

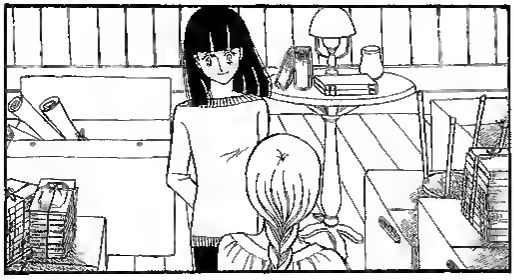

What's wrong?
Mommy and daddy are gone...
グスン グスン
I want to go home...
Daddy's
グスン グスン
I'm here.
Or am I not enough, Francis?
Francis' child
Francis' child with blond hair...
I wonder if I'm capable of loving this child?
I wonder if I can love that woman's child?
Good night,
from this day on we'll always be together

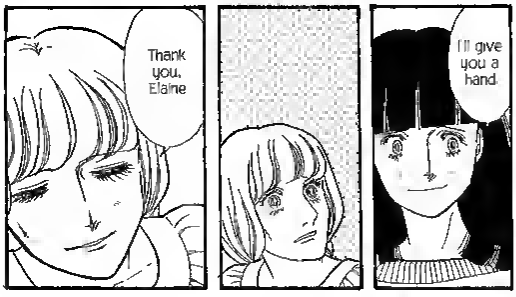


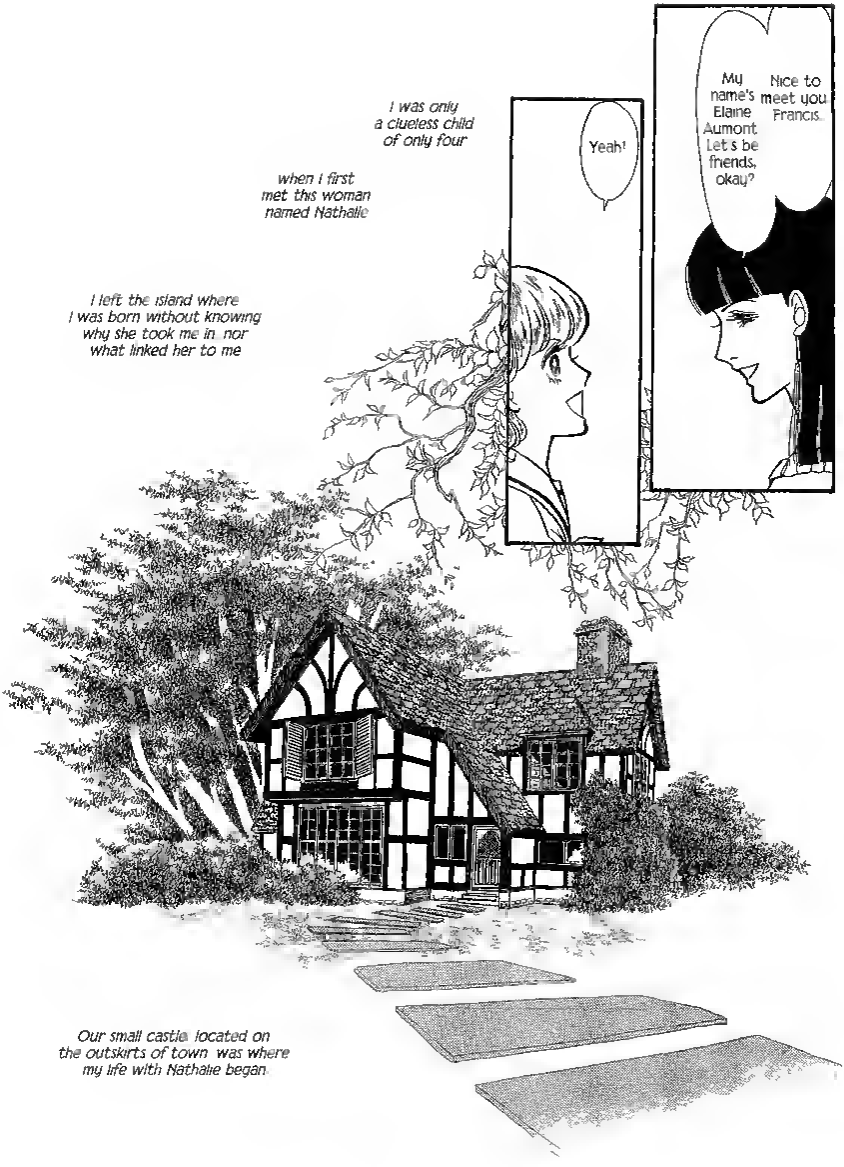
My small Francis.

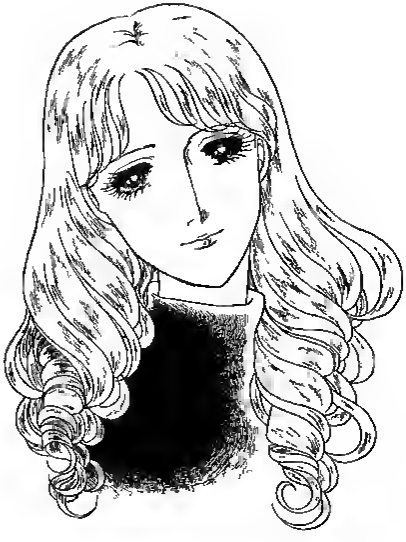
The small Francis who held on tightly to the ends of my sleeves.

We've both been left behind by those dearest to us.






I was only a clueless child of only four
when I first met this woman named Nathalie
I left the island where I was born without knowing why she took me in, nor what linked her to me
Yeah!
My name's Elaine Aumont. Let's be friends, okay?
Nice to meet you Francis.
Our small castle located on the outskirts of town was where my life with Nathalie began.



SUNA NO SHIRO CHAPTER 04

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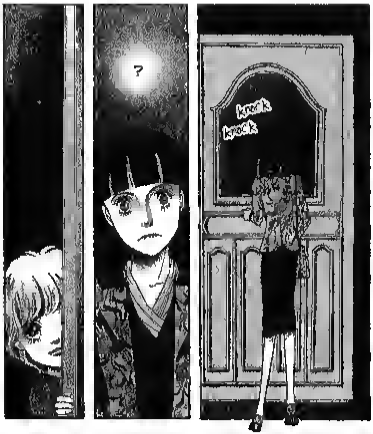
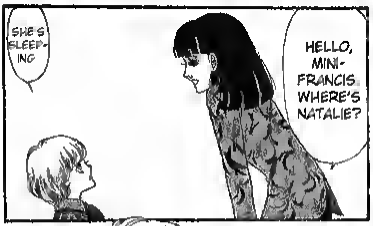
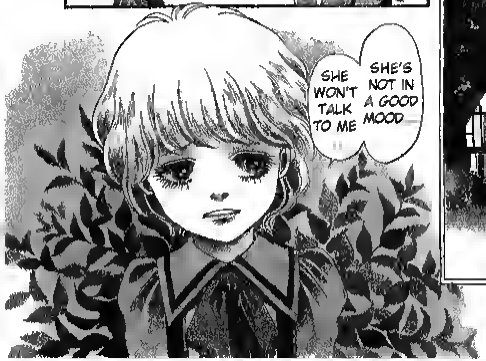
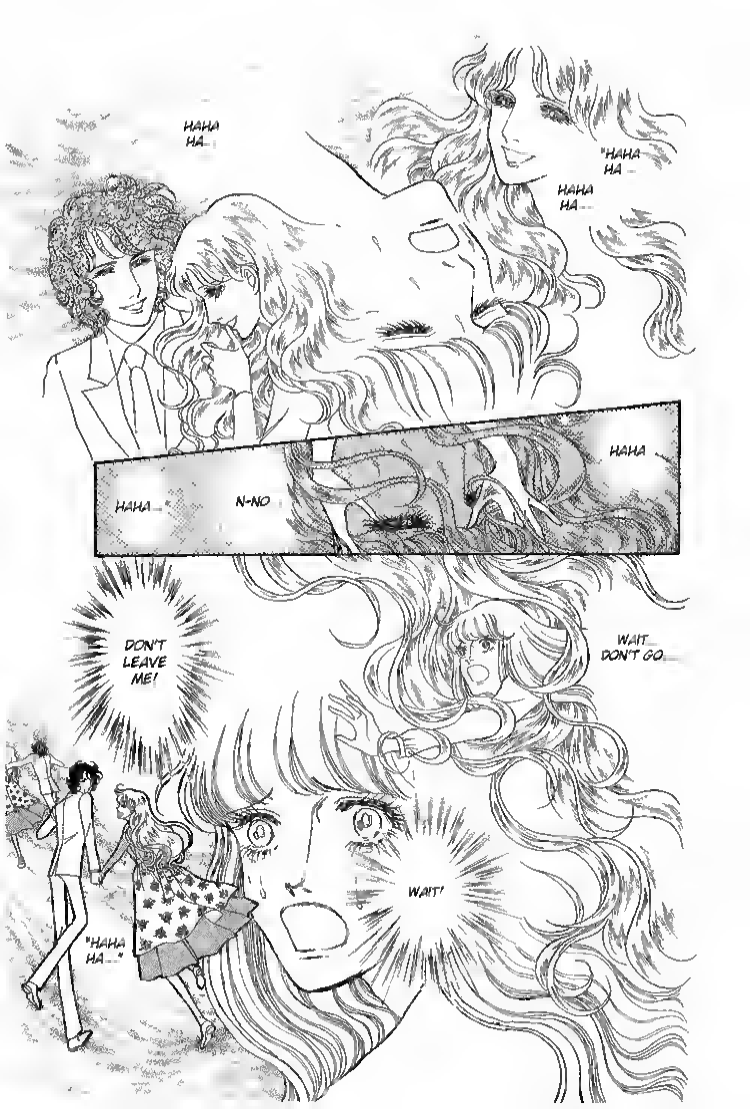

?
knock knock

THE FIRST MONTH WAS A BUSY ONE, WI. I WITH MOVING AND HAVING TO GET EVERYTHING ORGANIZED.
IN THE SECOND MONTH, I FIN. LLY GOT USED TO LIVING THERE.
I SPEND MY DAY NTICIP TING NAT LIE'S BREAKS EXPLORING THE WOODS IN THE BACK, ND PLAYING WITH THE NEIGHBORING KIDS.

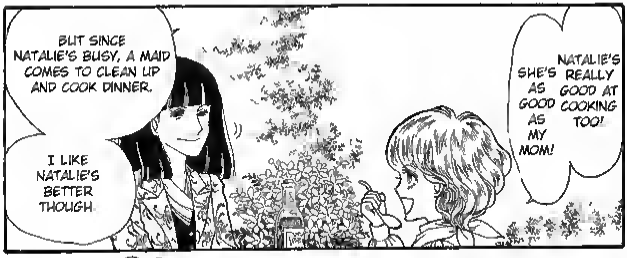

SHE'S SLEEPING
HELLO, MINI-FRANCIS. WHERE'S NATALIE?

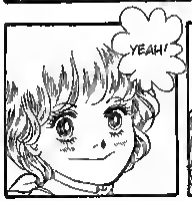

SHE WON'T TALK TO ME
SHE'S NOT IN A GOOD MOOD

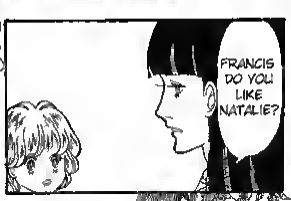
EVERYONE HAS PICTURES OF THEIR MOMMY AND DADDY IN THEIR HOUSE IT'S JUST MINE THAT DOESN'T
YOU KNOW HOW THERE ARE PICTURES OF DADDY HERE, RIGHT? BUT THERE AREN'T ANY OF MOMMY'S
ALL I DID WAS ASK WHY THERE AREN'T ANY PICTURES OF MOMMY
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
WHAT DID YOU DO? WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU TO APOLOGIZE?
I DRANK SOME MILK!
HAVE YOU EATEN ALREADY?
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER DIDN'T LIKE HAVING HER PICTURE TAKEN. THAT'S WHY THERE'S NOT ONE
"HAHAHA...
HAHAHA..."
I'LL HELP! I KNOW HOW TO GO SHOPPING BY MYSELF!
I'LL GO WHIP YOU UP SOME-THING TO EAT
WELL THEN, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY


HAHA HA...
"HAHA HA...
HAHA HA...
HAHA
HAHA...
N-NO
DON'T LEAVE ME!
WAIT... DON'T GO...
"HAHA HA..."
WAIT!

HAVING THE SAME DREAMS...
IT'S BEEN FIVE MONTHS ALREADY, AND I'M STILL...
WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM...
COUNTLESS STRANDS OF BLONDE HAIR WRAP AROUND ME,
AND I CAN'T MOVE
THE VOICE OF LAUGHTER WON'T FADE AWAY...
shiver
HOW IS IT?
NOT BAD, DON'T YOU THINK? COOKING'S MY SPECIALTY
YEAH! IT'S DELI-CIOUS!

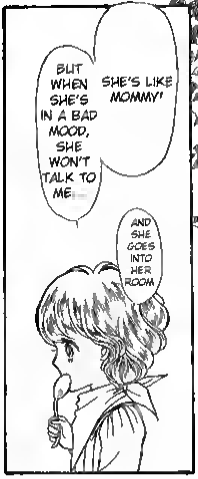

BUT SINCE NATALIE'S BUSY, A MAID COMES TO CLEAN UP AND COOK DINNER.
I LIKE NATALIE'S BETTER THOUGH.
NATALIE'S REALLY GOOD AT COOKING TOO! SHE'S AS GOOD AS MY MOM!

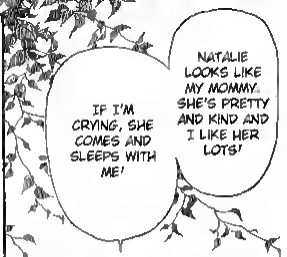

YEAH!


FRANCIS DO YOU LIKE NATALIE?

AND...

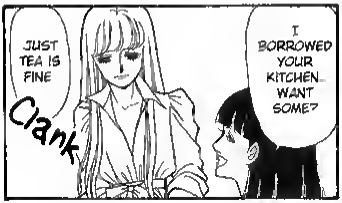
WHAT IS IT?

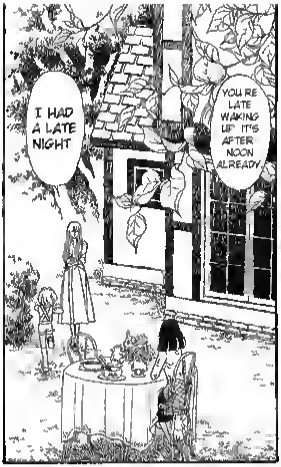

BUT WHEN SHE'S IN A BAD MOOD, SHE WON'T TALK TO ME...
SHE'S LIKE MOMMY!
AND SHE GOES INTO HER ROOM.

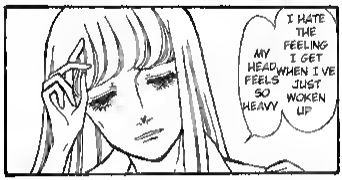

IF I'M CRYING, SHE COMES AND SLEEPS WITH ME!
NATALIE LOOKS LIKE MY MOMMY. SHE'S PRETTY AND KIND AND I LIKE HER LOTS!

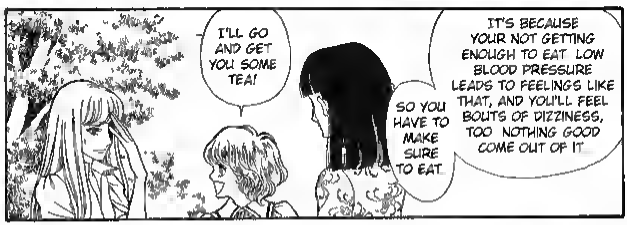
OH...
DO YOU THINK SHE LIKES ME?
DON'T BE SILLY. OF COURSE SHE LIKES YOU
IF SHE DIDN'T, THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULD BE LIVING HERE WITH YOU
CHEW ON THAT FOR A WHILE
THIS DINNER AND YOUR CLOTHES THESE ARE ALL THINGS YOU NEED, RIGHT? THAT'S WHY SHE HAS TO WORK
BUT WHEN SHE'S REALLY BUSY, SHE CAN GET A LITTLE CRANKY AND THAT'S WHY SHE'S IN A BAD MOOD SOMETIMES
SHE'S WORKING FOR YOU, SO YOU HAVE TO BE A GOOD BOY.
OKAY, FRANCIS?
YEAH!
I'LL BE A GOOD BOY!

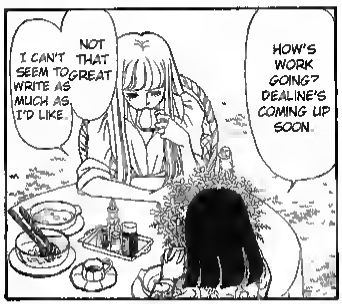
I WONDER IF SHE'LL LIKE ME LOTS MORE IF I'M AN EVEN BETTER BOY?
LOTS, AND LOTS!
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
I'M SURE SHE WILL
SHE LOOKS LIKE HIS MOTHER. HUH?
SO IT'S NOT AS IF FRANCIS COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT NATALIE EVEN AFTER HE LOST ALL HIS MEMORY.
SOMEWHERE IN HIS HEART, HE WAS REACHING OUT FOR HER.
NATALIE, ARE YOU AWAKE? ELAINE'S HERE!
I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN


I BORROWED YOUR KITCHEN... WANT SOME?
JUST TEA IS FINE
Clank

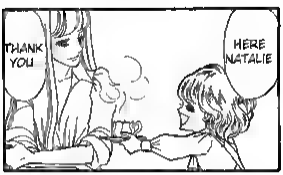

YOU'RE LATE WAKING UP. IT'S AFTER NOON ALREADY.
I HAD A LATE NIGHT


I HATE THE FEELING I GET WHEN I'VE JUST WOKEN UP
MY HEAD FEELS SO HEAVY


IT'S BECAUSE YOUR NOT GETTING ENOUGH TO EAT. LOW BLOOD PRESSURE LEADS TO FEELINGS LIKE THAT, AND YOU'LL FEEL BOUTS OF DIZZINESS, TOO. NOTHING GOOD COME OUT OF IT.
SO YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE TO EAT.
I'LL GO AND GET YOU SOME TEA!


HOW'S WORK GOING? DEALINE'S COMING UP SOON.
NOT THAT GREAT
I CAN'T SEEM TO WRITE AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE.

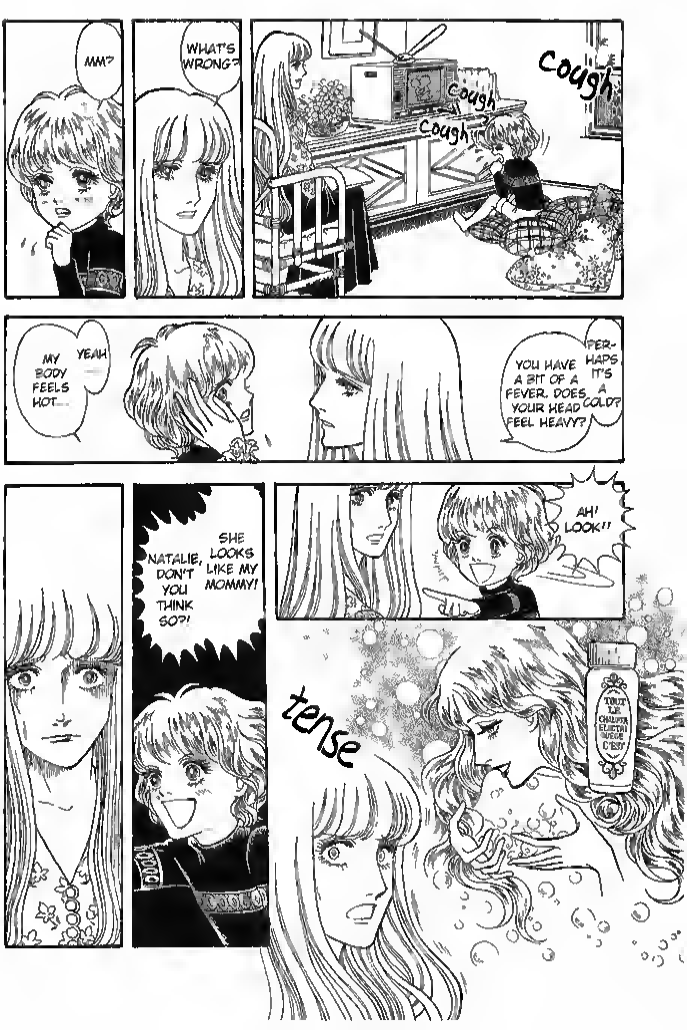
POURRR


HERE NATALIE
THANK YOU.

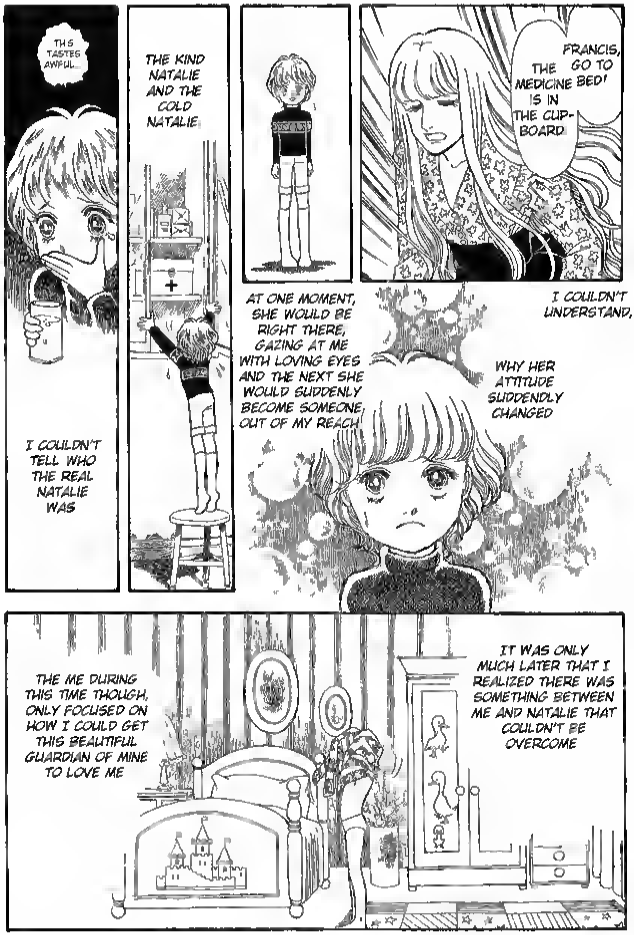
OH, REALLY? PERHAPS
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL
YOU LOOK TIRED.
WHEN I WAKE UP, THE FIRST THINK I DO IS GO UP TO THE MIRROR WHEN I DO, THE FACE REFLECTED BACK AT ME HAS A TERRIBLE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE
MY FACE LOOKS ALL STIFF
THAT'S WHY I MUST LOOK TIRED
HELLO MR. FRANCIS HERE'S A GIFT.
THANK YOU MR. BRUET!
CAN I OPEN IT?
HAVING A TEA PARTY?
MIND IF I JOIN?
WOW!!! NATALIE, LOOK! IT'S AN AIRPLANE!
THANK YOU. YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE
YOU'RE WELCOME.

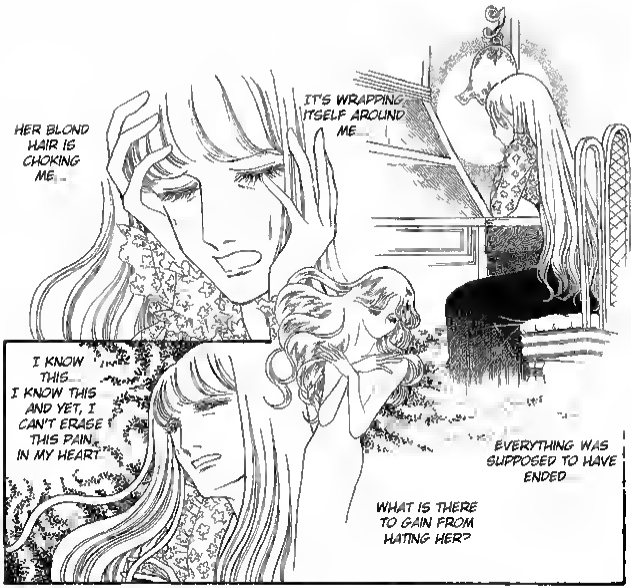
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL
HAVE YOU CAUGHT A COLD?
I'M HERE TO DISCUSS THE PUBLISHING FIRM'S ANNIVERSARY PARTY
I'D SAY YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S DAWDLING
ARE YOU OKAY IDLING YOUR TIME LIKE THIS?
OH, THEN EXCUSE ME
MY JOB STARTS AT 5.
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY LECTURES TO GO TO THIS AFTER-NOON
I'M ALWAYS LIKE THIS WHEN I'VE JUST WOKEN
HMM YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A FEVER
FRANCIS, GO OFF AND PLAY SOME-WHERE
NATALIE! LOOK! THIS FLIES!

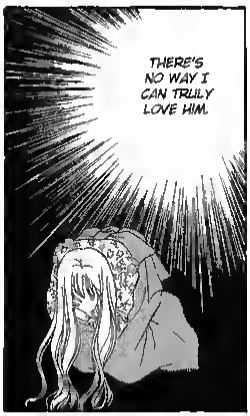
THEN DO YOU WAN TO PLAY WITH ME?
GOING TO GO I'M. PLAY BY MYSELF!
SORRY FRANCIS WE HAVE SOME WORK TO DISCUSS
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE BEING ALL TOUCHY-FEELY WITH NATALIE
KIDS ARE SENSITIVE TO STUFF LIKE THAT
OH, LOOKS LIKE I GOT ON HIS WRONG SIDE
creaakk
creaakk
THAT'S NOT TRUE
OH REALLY? THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE TO ME


MM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
Cough
Cough
Cough
YEAH
MY BODY FEELS HOT...
YOU HAVE A BIT OF A FEVER. DOES YOUR HEAD FEEL HEAVY?
PER-HAPS IT'S A COLD?
AH! LOOK!!
SHE LOOKS LIKE MY MOMMY!
NATALIE, DON'T YOU THINK SO?!
tense

"HAHAHA HAHA
HAHAHA HAHA..."
AH
cough cough
I WONDER IF THEY'LL SHOW IT AGAIN? HAIR WAS JUST LIKE MOMMY'S
tense
NATALIE, WHAT'S WRONG?
NATALIE!


THIS TASTES AWFUL...
I COULDN'T TELL WHO THE REAL NATALIE WAS
THE KIND NATALIE AND THE COLD NATALIE
FRANCIS, GO TO BED! THE MEDICINE IS IN THE CUPBOARD.
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND,
WHY HER ATTITUDE SUDDENLY CHANGED
AT ONE MOMENT, SHE WOULD BE RIGHT THERE, GAZING AT ME WITH LOVING EYES AND THE NEXT SHE WOULD SUDDENLY BECOME SOMEONE OUT OF MY REACH
THE ME DURING THIS TIME THOUGH, ONLY FOCUSED ON HOW I COULD GET THIS BEAUTIFUL GUARDIAN OF MINE TO LOVE ME
IT WAS ONLY MUCH LATER THAT I REALIZED THERE WAS SOMETHING BETWEEN ME AND NATALIE THAT COULDN'T BE OVERCOME


HER BLOND HAIR IS CHOKING ME...
IT'S WRAPPING ITSELF AROUND ME...
I KNOW THIS... I KNOW THIS AND YET, I CAN'T ERASE THIS PAIN IN MY HEART...
EVERYTHING WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ENDED
WHAT IS THERE TO GAIN FROM HATING HER?

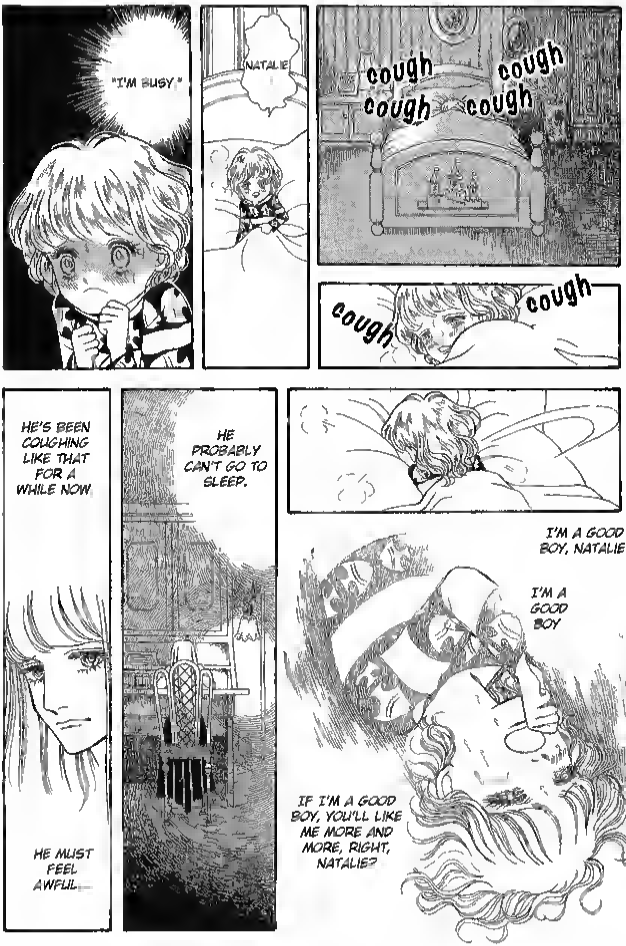

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TRULY LOVE HIM.

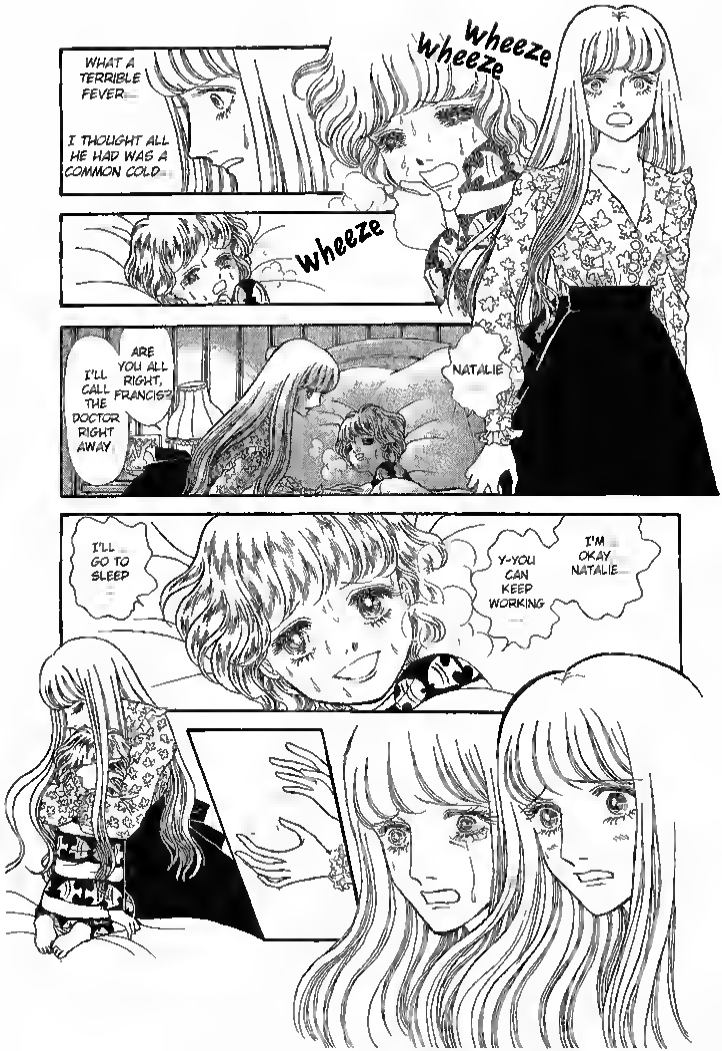
I WONDER IF ADOPTING HIM WAS A MISTAKE...
HE'S WANTED A HAND TO REACH OUT TO, SO MUCH, AND I...

Cough
Cough

knock knock
I TOOK THE MEDICINE BUT I CAN'T STOP COUGHING...
AND MY BODY FEELS REALLY HOT...
U-UM
WHAT'S WRONG?
BE KIND TO HIM, NATALIE
HE WANTS YOU TO BE BY HIS SIDE. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S LONELY?
BE NICE TO HIM.
WHAT HAS HE EVER DONE TO YOU?
U-UM... NATALIE...
I'M BUSY.
SO BE A GOOD BOY AND GO TO SLEEP
DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IN THE MORNING.
HOW COULD YOU!

YOU'RE... WORKING FOR ME RIGHT?
Y-YOU'RE WORKING YOUR HARDEST... SO YOU CAN BUY ME CLOTHES... AND FOOD...
HOW CRUEL CAN YOU BE?
O-OKAY
I UNDERSTAND... YOU'RE BUSY WITH WORK
cough cough
EVEN A BOY THIS YOUNG KNOWS HOW TO RESTRAIN HIMSELF...
WHY CAN'T I CONJURE UP EVEN THE TINIEST GRAIN OF KINDNESS TOWARDS HIM?
I'LL GO TO BED
GOOD NIGHT, NATALIE
I WAS THE ONE WHO OFFERED MY HAND TO HIM.
SO WHAT AM I DOING SLAPPING AWAY HIS OUTREACHED HAND?
cough cough


"I'M BUSY."
NATALIE
cough
cough
cough
cough
cough
cough
HE'S BEEN COUGHING LIKE THAT FOR A WHILE NOW
HE MUST FEEL AWFUL...
HE PROBABLY CAN'T GO TO SLEEP.
I'M A GOOD BOY, NATALIE
I'M A GOOD BOY
IF I'M A GOOD BOY, YOU'LL LIKE ME MORE AND MORE, RIGHT, NATALIE?

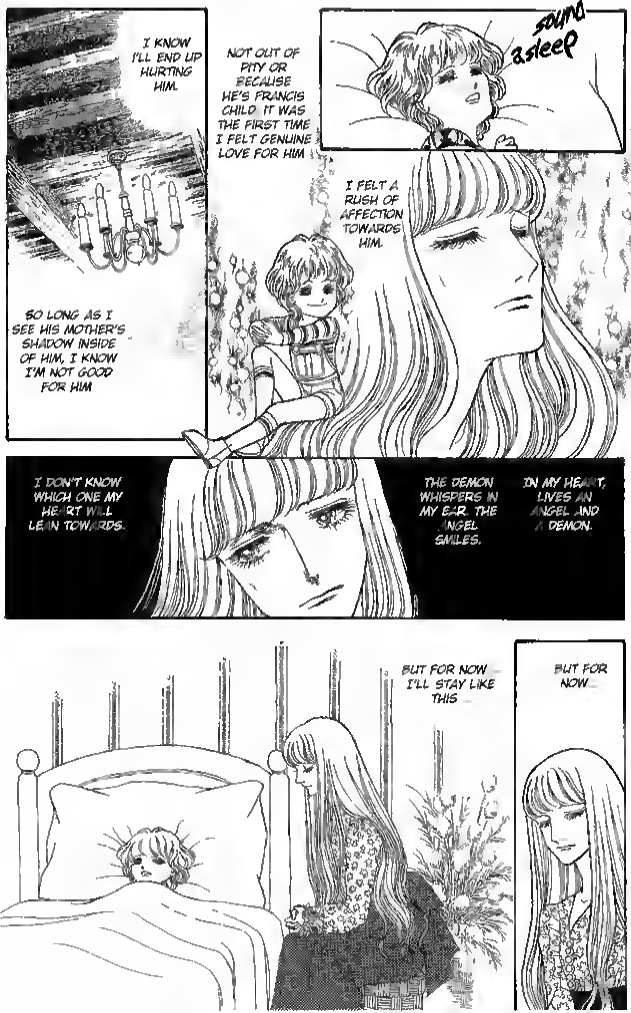

WHAT A TERRIBLE FEVER...
I THOUGHT ALL HE HAD WAS A COMMON COLD...
Wheeze
Wheeze
Wheeze
NATALIE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, FRANCIS?
I'LL CALL THE DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY
I'M OKAY NATALIE...
Y-YOU CAN KEEP WORKING...
I'LL GO TO SLEEP...

I'M SORRY, FRANCIS I'M SO SORRY
YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG
YOU HAVE NO ONE BUT ME AN I
NATALIE
HE'S NO ANSWERING
BEEP BEEP BEEP
HE MUST BE OUT BECAUSE IT'S THE WEEKEND
BEEP BEEP
HIS TEMERATURE'S 40 DEGREES
WHAT SHOULD I DO
WHEEZE WHEEZE

OKAY, OKAY OKAY...
ring ring ring
yawn
OH. IT'S JUST YOU, NATALIE.
YES. THIS IS ELA—
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALL THE DOCTOR, HE WON'T ANSWER.
ELAINE, WHAT SHOULD I DO...
ELAINE— FRANCIS HAS A FEVER!
IT'S OVER 40!
WHAT?!
HMMM... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE EDITOR SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING A FRIEND WHO'S A DOCTOR.
click
DON'T WORRY, NATALIE I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN
OH, BEFORE I GO THERE THOUGH I'LL TRY CALLING AROUND A FEW PLACES
OKAY, I'LL BE OVER THERE RIGHT AWAY

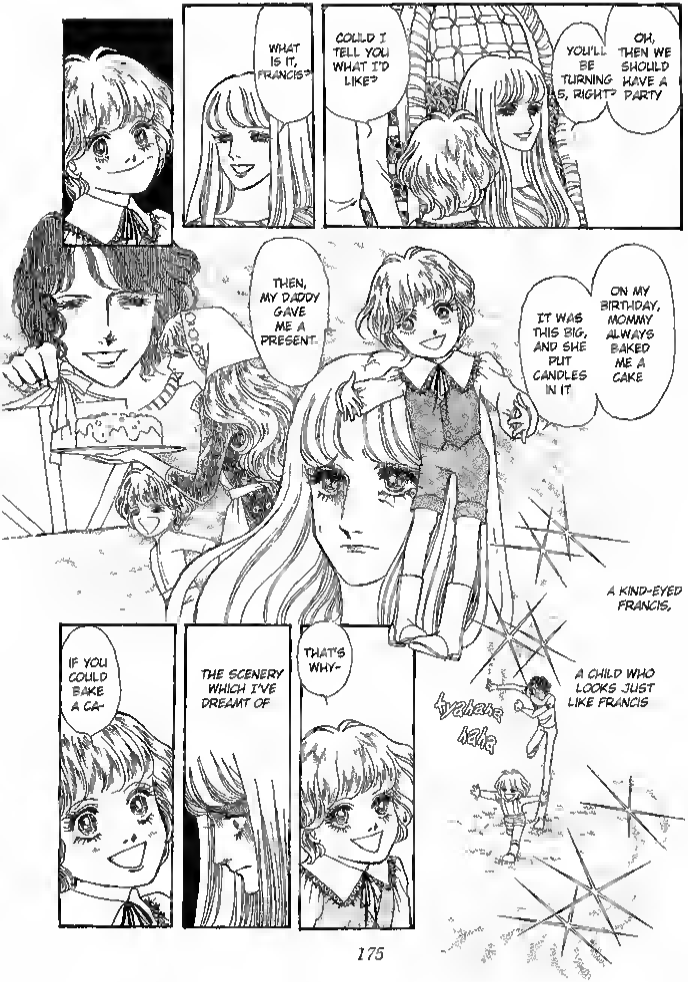
YOU MEAN THE ONE THAT ALMOST EVERY CHILD GETS?
MEASLES?
HE'S GOT MEASLES
I'VE GIVEN HIM SOME ANTIBIOTICS SO HE'LL BE FINE
THE EARLY SYMPTOMS RESEMBLE A COLD
I'M SO GLAD...
THANK YOU SO MUCH
IF YOU KEEP HIM WARM AND RESTED HE'LL RECOVER IN ABOUT A WEEK
AFTER ABOUT 3 DAYS HE'LL GET A RASH THROUGHOUT HIS ENTIRE BODY BUT DON'T WORRY...
IF YOU TAKE IT TOO LIGHTLY YOU MIGHT END UP IN TROUBLE
BUT THERE ARE STILL CHILDREN WHO DIE FROM IT
OH SO IT WAS JUST MEASLES
CLICK
OH WELL AT LEAST WE GOT THIS ALL RESOLVED!
OH COME ON NOW SHOULDN'T YOU BE FEELING GREAT THAT YOU HELPED SOMEONE MICHELE?
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE COMMOTION HE CAUSED WHEN HE CAME SLAMMING ON MY DOOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
DON'T THANK ME THANK HIM.

I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU
NATALIE I'LL STOP BY TOMORROW
THANK YOU
ALL RIGHT
NOT AT ALL I'M GLAD I COULD BE OF HELP
PERHAPS THE NEXT CALL FROM YOU COULD BE AN INVITATION FOR SOME TEA?
I'LL BE HERE
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY... JUST GO TO FRANCIS. SLEEP
NATALIE...
NATALIE'S LIKE MY MOMMY...
SHE'S LIKE MY MOMMY...


I KNOW I'LL END UP HURTING HIM.
NOT OUT OF PITY OR BECAUSE HE'S FRANCIS' CHILD. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I FELT GENUINE LOVE FOR HIM.
SOUND ASLEEP
I FELT A RUSH OF AFFECTION TOWARDS HIM.
SO LONG AS I SEE HIS MOTHER'S SHADOW INSIDE OF HIM, I KNOW I'M NOT GOOD FOR HIM.
I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE MY HEART WILL LEAN TOWARDS.
THE DEMON WHISPERS IN MY EAR. THE ANGEL SMILES.
IN MY HEART, LIVES AN ANGEL AND A DEMON.
BUT FOR NOW... I'LL STAY LIKE THIS...
BUT FOR NOW...

YUP! I'M ALL BETTER!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL BETTER THAT RASH OF YOURS WAS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE THOUGH!
BOTTOM'S UP!
SHE WAS WITH ME FOR THE ENTIRE DAY!
NATALIE WAS WITH ME THE WHOLE TIME!
OH, NO. I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED THAT'S ALL
PERHAPS IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE LOOKED AFTER NEXT.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH FOR YOU
THE CHIRPING OF THE BIRDS AND THE LAUGHTER OF THE CHILDREN
THE WARM RAYS OF THE SUN, AND THE SCENT OF THE FLOWERS
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE I'VE FELT THE SEASON LIKE THIS?

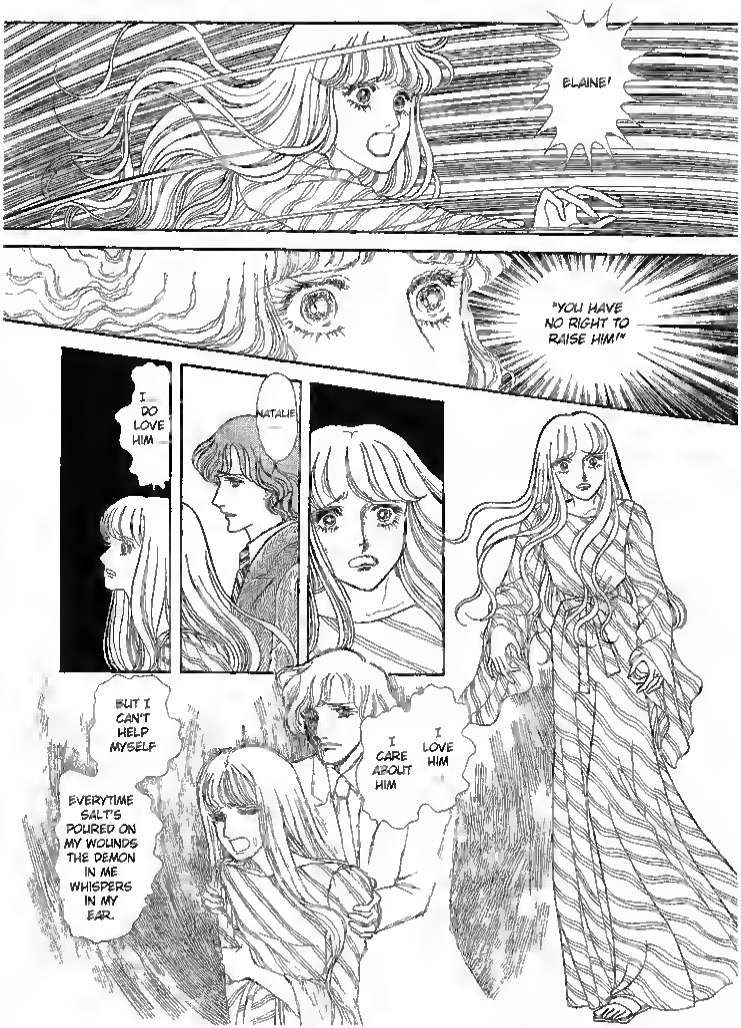
DARLING! DARLING! THE PIE I BAKED WAS A SUCCESS!
OH NO YOU CAN'T YOUR DADDY GETS THE FIRST BITE!
THE SCENERY WHICH I'VE DREAMT OF SINCE I WAS A CHILD LAYS OUT BEFORE ME
TEA TIME IN THE GARDEN, THE EXCITED VOICE OF A CHILD,
A KIND-EYED FRANCIS, AND A CHILD WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE FRANCIS
GHANE! GHANE!
NATALIE NATALIE
WHAT ...?
I TOLD YOU TO NOT WAKE HER UP!
SHE'S EXHAUSTED
TOMORROW IS MY BIRTHDAY!
UMM... UM...
WHAT IS IT, FRANCIS?

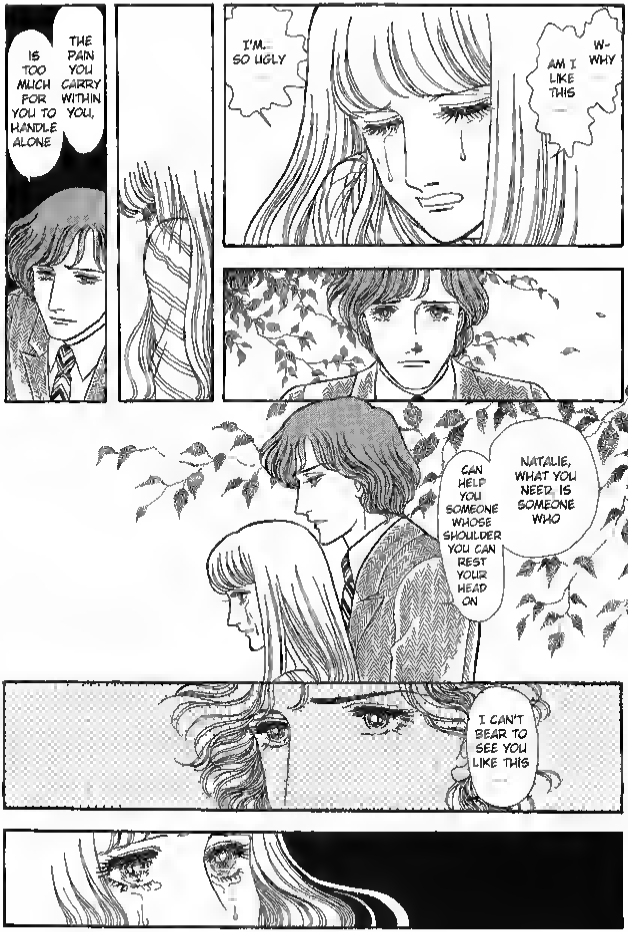

WHAT IS IT, FRANCIS?
COULD I TELL YOU WHAT I'D LIKE?
YOU'LL BE TURNING 5, RIGHT?
OH, THEN WE SHOULD HAVE A PARTY
THEN, MY DADDY GAVE ME A PRESENT.
IT WAS THIS BIG, AND SHE PUT CANDLES IN IT
ON MY BIRTHDAY, MOMMY ALWAYS BAKED ME A CAKE
A KIND-EYED FRANCIS,
A CHILD WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE FRANCIS
IF YOU COULD BAKE A CA-
THE SCENERY WHICH I'VE DREAMT OF
THAT'S WHY-
Yoshiko Iida

NATALIE?
I-I'M
I'M NOT YOUR MOTHER!
Chase
I CAN'T BE YOUR MOTHER I'M MY OWN PERSON!
SO STOP SEEKING FOR YOUR MOTHER IN ME!
NATALIE, NO!
SHE HATES ME!

FRANCIS, NATALIE S-
SHE HATES ME!
WAAH!
SHE HATES ME NOW!
FRANCIS!
HOW COULD YOU?!
DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH YOU'VE HURT HIM?!
IF YOU CAN'T LOVE HIM, WHY DID YOU TAKE HIM INTO YOUR HOME?!

B-
ELAINE
NO, THAT'S NOT
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW STARVED HE IS FOR AFFECTION!
YOU JUST TOOK HIM IN OUT OF SENTIMENT AND YOU TAKE OUR ALL YOUR FRUSTRATIONS ON HIM LIKE THIS!
THE ONLY TIME YOU GIVE HIM A GLANCE IS WHEN THE MOOD STRIKES YOU!
YOU CAN ONLY THINK ABOUT YOURSELF!
YOU'RE SO SELF-CENTERED!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO RAISE HIM!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
IF YOU CAN'T LOVE HIM, THEN I WILL!
I'LL LOVE HIM MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER LOVE HIM!
N-NO... ELAINE!


BLAINE!
"YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO RAISE HIM!"
I... DO LOVE HIM
NATALIE
I LOVE HIM
I CARE ABOUT HIM
BUT I CAN'T HELP MYSELF
EVERYTIME SALT'S POURED ON MY WOUNDS THE DEMON IN ME WHISPERS IN MY EAR.


W-WHY
AM I LIKE THIS
I'M... SO UGLY
THE PAIN YOU CARRY WITHIN YOU,
IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE ALONE
NATALIE, WHAT YOU NEED IS SOMEONE WHO
CAN HELP YOU SOMEONE WHOSE SHOULDER YOU CAN REST YOUR HEAD ON
I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS

I LOVE YOU
WAH HH!
WAHH HHH!
DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME? NATALIE CAN'T BE YOUR MOTHER DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
hicc hicc
FRANCIS
SO DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME?
IF YOU RE WANTING YOUR MOTHER, NATALIE WON'T FULFILL HER PLACE

SUNA NO SHIRO CHAPTER 05

CREDITS

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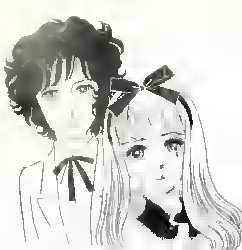


HAPPY B-DAY
OCEAN-CHAN!
FROM
THE JSHOUJO TEAM

탁
I WANT MORE MANGA
IT'S A LEECHER
WHY ARE YOU TAKING SO LONG?
SHUT UP AND WAIT
질 질 질
아 아 아 아 아 아 아
JSHOUJO SCANS NEEDS YOU!
WE NEED STAFF!
WHY DON'T THEY HELP US? BY JOINING US OR GETTING OTHERS TO?

OKAY, FRANCIS?
WHAT..?
WELL IF YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, I'M NOT SURE WHAT ELSE TO SAY.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.
U-UM ...MR. ROBERT.
I...
I KNOW, BUT STILL

IF YOU'RE IN NEED OF A FRIEND,
JUST IGNORE WHAT I SAID TO YOU AND WE CAN GO ON AS WE HAVE BEFORE.
BUT IF YOU START AVOIDING ME OVER THIS, THEN WHAT USE CAN I BE TO YOU?
ONE DAY, WHEN THE SHADOW OF YOUR LOVER DISAPPEARS I'LL ASK FOR YOU TO CONSIDER ME SERIOUSLY
UNTIL THEN, I'M HAPPY BEING JUST A GOOD FRIEND
CAN I NOT BE THE ONE YOU SEEK TO FOR ADVICE?
I'LL BE WILLING TO GIVE MY ADVICE ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN LOVE- RELATED PROBLEMS THAT IS
LOOK, FRANCIS! I BAKED A CAKE!
LET'S DECORATE IT AND LEAVE IT FOR TOMORROW TO EAT OKAY?
OH...

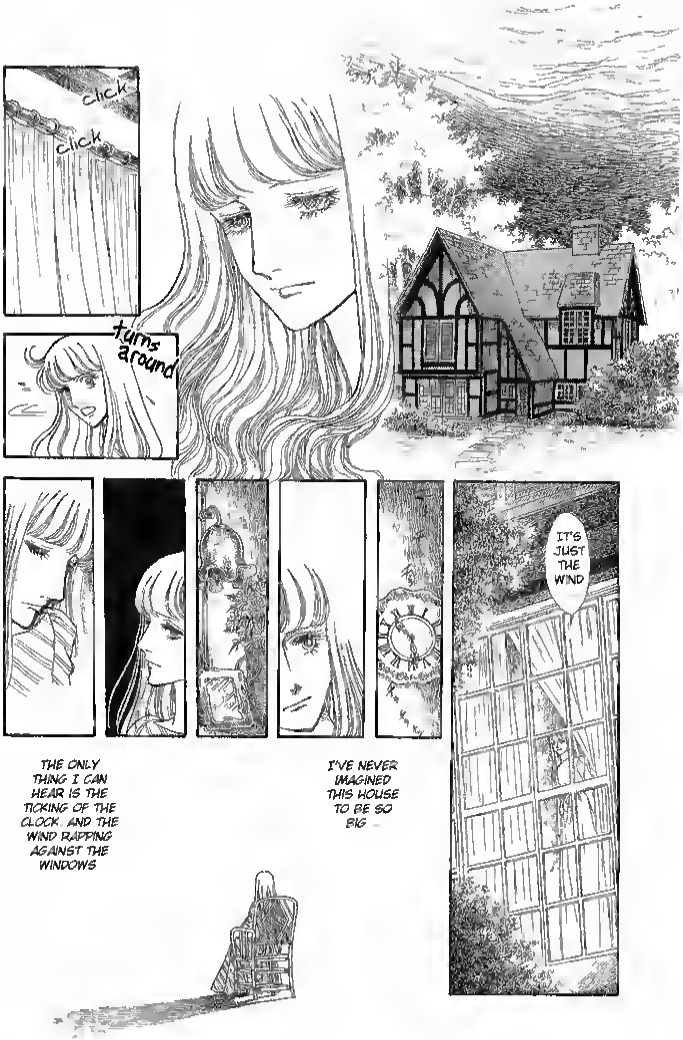
Alice
DO YOU WANT TO GO HOME TO NATALIE?
BUT...
SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME ANYMORE
SHE HAD A REALLY SCARY LOOK ON HER FACE
SHE REALLY, REALLY HATES ME...

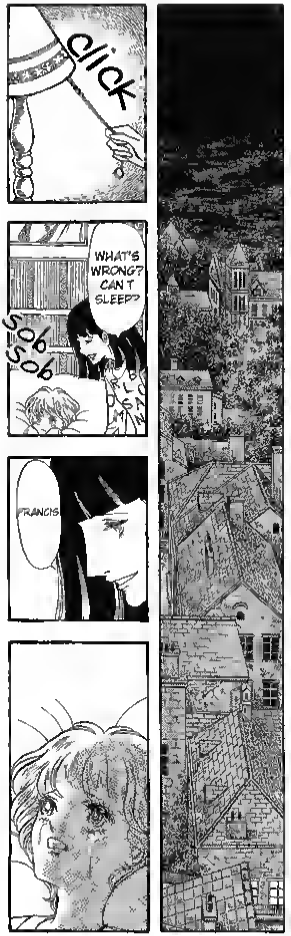
FRANCIS I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT SO THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY BEFORE ANSWERING OKAY?
DO YOU LIKE NATALIE BECAUSE SHE RESEMBLES YOUR MOM?
IF SHE DIDN'T REMIND YOU OF YOUR MOM, HOW WOULD IT BE?
WOULD YOU STILL LIKE HER?
EVEN IF SHE WASN'T LIKE YOUR MOM, WOULD YOU STILL LIKE HER?
BUT... NATALIE REALLY IS LIKE MY MOM
IS THAT WHY YOU LIKE HER?
EVEN IF SHE REMINDS YOU OF YOUR MOM, SHE'S NOT
YOUR MOM'S NO LONGER HERE ON THIS EARTH
AND NATALIE ISN'T WILLING TO TAKE HER PLACE
I KNOW THIS MUST BE TOUGH ON YOU,
BUT THIS IS IMPOR-TANT

sigh
I'M YES SURE — OF IT.
THEN WILL NATALIE LIKE ME?
IF YOU WANT TO BE WITH NATALIE YOU HAVE TO GIVE YOUR MOM UP
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU CAN'T MENTION HER IN FRONT OF NATALIE
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR YOU TO WANT YOUR MOTHER
I'M SORRY FRANCIS JUST FORGET I SAID ANYTHING
WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO SAY TO ASK YOU TO FORGET YOUR OWN MOTHER
I STILL WANT TO BE WITH HER!
DON'T CARE IF SHE'S NOT LIKE MY MOM
I'LL GO AND WHIP SOME-THING UP
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY
I

YEAH
AND SO— YOU ENDED UP TELLING HER HOW YOU FELT?
clank clank clank
SAY WHAT YOU WANT
I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU JUST SLIPPING UP AND ENDING UP BLABBERING EVERYTHING
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE SO BRAZEN THOUGH. EVEN BACK IN UNIVERSITY YOU ALWAYS PLAYED THE PART OF THE COOL GENTLEMAN
I SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID WHAT I DID
I FEEL SO FOOLISH
IT'LL MAKE YOU BLIND
THAT'S THE POWER OF LOVE
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY...
IT CAN'T BE JUST HER LOOKS... YOU'VE COME ACROSS BEAUTIES LIKE HER IN YOUR LIFE TIME
WHAT DO YOU FIND SO MESMERIZING ABOUT HER?
SHE MUST BE ONE HELL OF A WOMEN IF SHE'S GOTTEN TO THE HEART OF MR HEART-OF-ICE...

WHAT!
WHEN IT CAME TO YOU, THERE WASN'T EVEN ONE JUICY RUMOR FLOATING AROUND ABOUT YOU AND SOMEONE ELSE. TO BE HONEST, I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED.
I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU MIGHT EVEN HAVE A THING FOR ME
AND I THOUGHT IF IT CAME TO THAT, THEN I WOULD HAVE TO GIVE IT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT, YOU KNOW?
I'M NOT... I'M JUST INTERESTED IN HOW THIS ALL CAME ABOUT. THAT'S ALL
HEY, DON'T MAKE FUN OF THIS SITUATION
OR PERHAPS SHE AWOKE IN YOU YOUR SENSE OF KNIGHTHOOD?
DID HER PASSION FOR A SINGLE MAN GET THROUGH YOUR DEFENSES?
tense
W WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU WOULD GIVE IT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT
OH, DON'T ACT SO DENSE
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN
tense
I MEAN THIS!
WELL THAT'S A DISSAP-OINT—
SLAP
woah
CUT IT OUT, MICHELE!
YOU KNOW I'M NOT LIKE THAT!

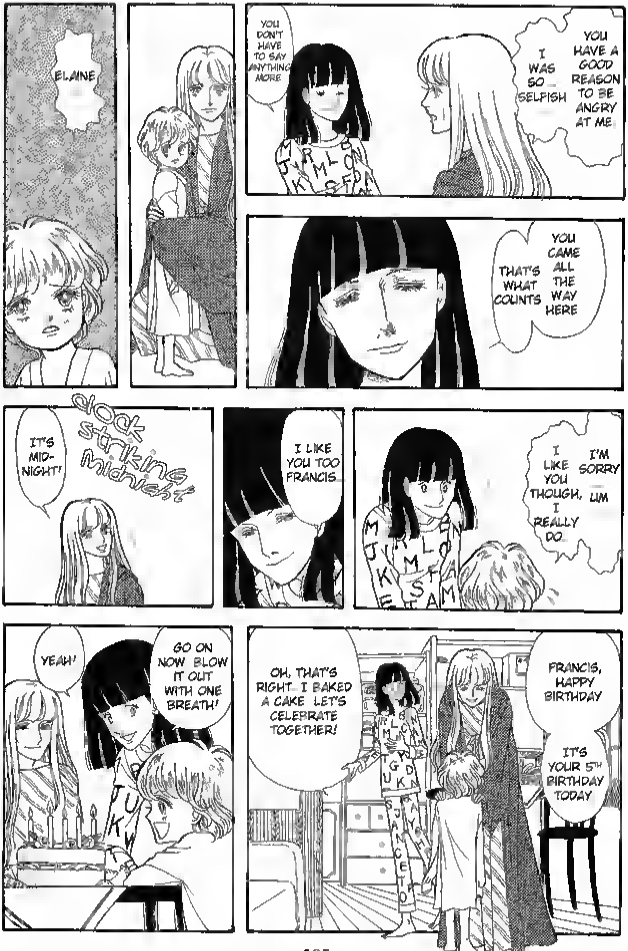

click
click
turns around
THE ONLY THING I CAN HEAR IS THE TICKING OF THE CLOCK AND THE WIND RAPPING AGAINST THE WINDOWS
I'VE NEVER IMAGINED THIS HOUSE TO BE SO BIG
IT'S JUST THE WIND

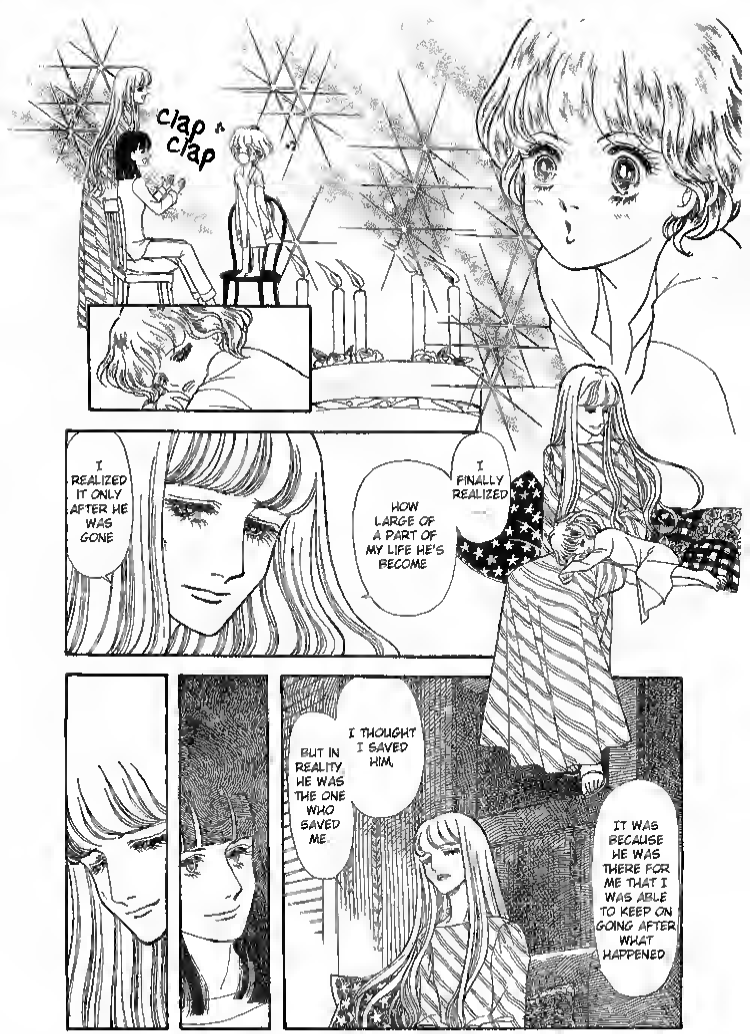

click
WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T SLEEP?
SOB SOB
FRANCIS
FRANCIS WAS ALWAYS BY MY SIDE
LOOKING UP AT ME WITH LOVING EYES
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE USED TO BEING ALONE
I NEVER THOUGHT NOTHING COULD MAKE ME FEEL PAIN EVER AGAIN AFTER WHAT HAPPENED
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D FEEL THIS WAY BECAUSE HE'S GONE

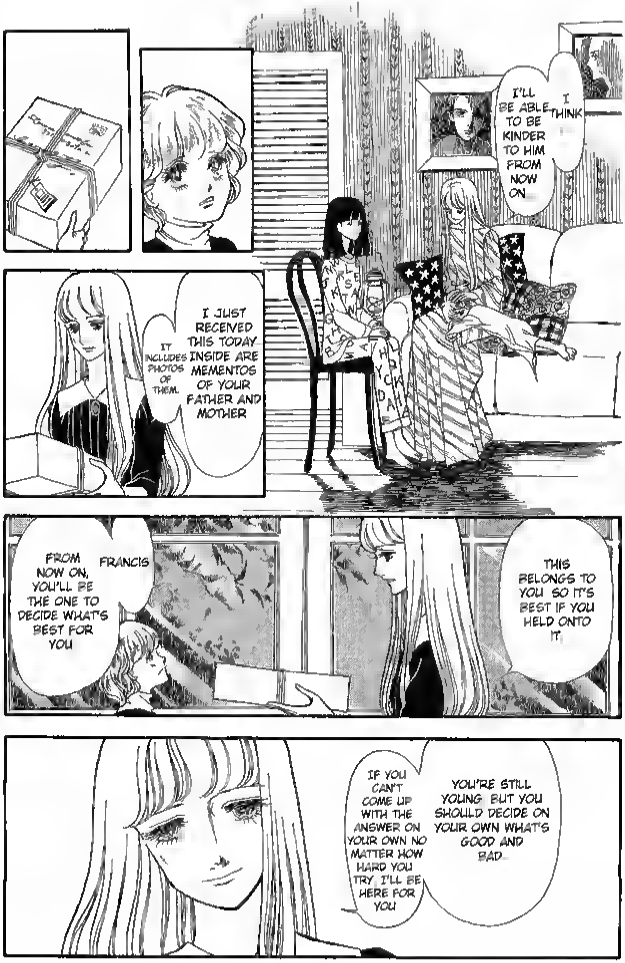
NO! I WANT TO GO NOW!
IT'S LATE. I'LL TAKE YOU OVER THERE TOMORROW.
WAAAH
I WANT TO GO HOME
FRANCIS, WHAT'S WRONG?
I WANT TO GO HOME TO NATALIE!
I DON'T NEED A MOMMY!
I DON'T CARE IF SHE'S NOT LIKE MY MOMMY!
FRANCIS?
WAAAH
YOU CAN'T GO OUT DRESSED LIKE THAT!
WAIT, FRANCIS!

NATALIE
I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU HOME
NATALIE!
NATALIE!
NATALIE!
DON'T HATE ME!
I'LL BE A GOOD BOY, I PROMISE! SO DON'T HATE ME!
I WON'T BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU'RE WORKING
I WON'T ASK ANYTHING MORE FROM YOU
NATALIE

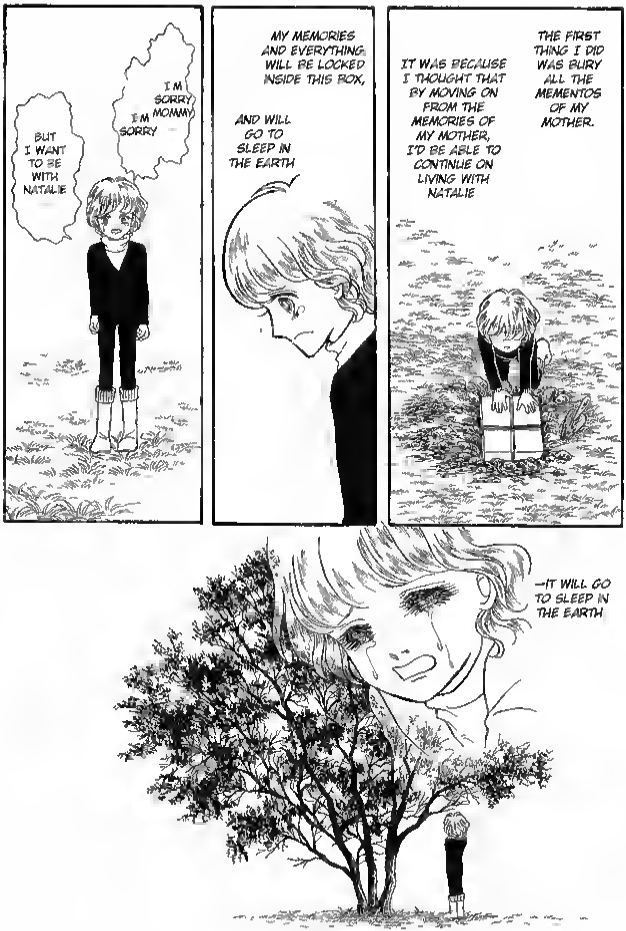
I LOVE YOU FRANCIS
I LOVE YOU
I DON'T HATE YOU
FRANCIS
ELAINE
I'M SORRY, ELAINE
I GUESS I HAVE TO ACCEPT MY LOSS
BUT I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE WHAT WITH FRANCIS LIKE THIS
I HAD MY MIND SET ON NOT LETTING YOU OFF THE HOOK THIS TIME

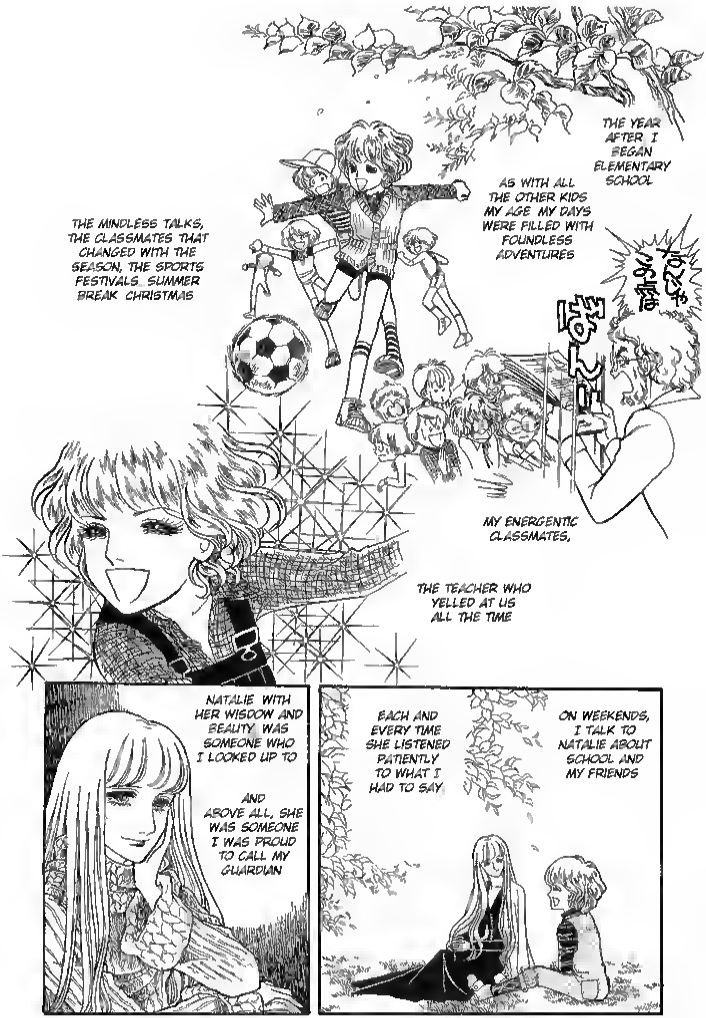

ELAINE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING MORE
I WAS SO SELFISH
YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON TO BE ANGRY AT ME
THAT'S WHAT COUNTS
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE
clock striking midnight
IT'S MIDNIGHT!
I LIKE YOU TOO FRANCIS
I'M SORRY I LIKE YOU THOUGH, UM I REALLY DO
YEAH!
GO ON NOW BLOW IT OUT WITH ONE BREATH!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I BAKED A CAKE LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!
FRANCIS, HAPPY BIRTHDAY
IT'S YOUR 5TH BIRTHDAY TODAY

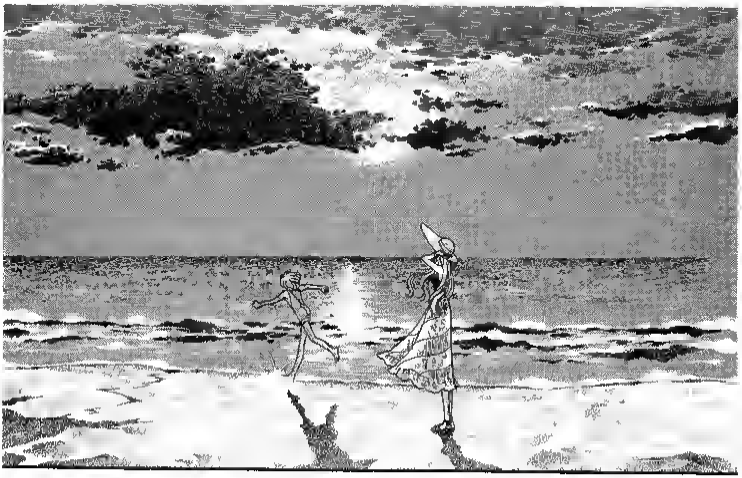

clap
clap
I FINALLY REALIZED
HOW LARGE OF A PART OF MY LIFE HE'S BECOME
I REALIZED IT ONLY AFTER HE WAS GONE
I THOUGHT I SAVED HIM.
BUT IN REALITY, HE WAS THE ONE WHO SAVED ME
IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS THERE FOR ME THAT I WAS ABLE TO KEEP ON GOING AFTER WHAT HAPPENED

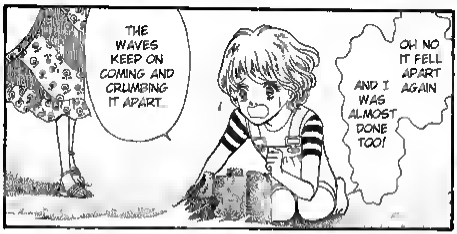

I'LL BE ABLE TO BE KINDER TO HIM FROM NOW ON
I THINK
I JUST RECEIVED THIS TODAY. INSIDE ARE MEMENTOS OF YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER
IT INCLUDES PHOTOS OF THEM.
THIS BELONGS TO YOU SO IT'S BEST IF YOU HELD ONTO IT.
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO DECIDE WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU
FRANCIS
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG BUT YOU SHOULD DECIDE ON YOUR OWN WHAT'S GOOD AND BAD.
IF YOU CAN'T COME UP WITH THE ANSWER ON YOUR OWN NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY I'LL BE HERE FOR YOU

PIC- TURES OF MY MOM-MY?
DOES IT HAVE
YES
"IF YOU WANT TO BE WITH NATALIE, YOU HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR MOTHER."

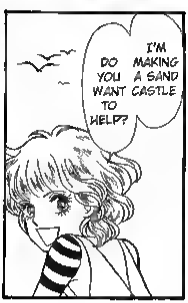

I'M SORRY, MOMMY
I'M SORRY
BUT I WANT TO BE WITH NATALIE
MY MEMORIES AND EVERYTHING WILL BE LOCKED INSIDE THIS BOX,
AND WILL GO TO SLEEP IN THE EARTH
THE FIRST THING I DID WAS BURY ALL THE MEMENTOS OF MY MOTHER.
IT WAS BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT BY MOVING ON FROM THE MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER, I'D BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ON LIVING WITH NATALIE
—IT WILL GO TO SLEEP IN THE EARTH


THE YEAR AFTER I BEGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AS WITH ALL THE OTHER KIDS MY AGE MY DAYS WERE FILLED WITH FOUNDLESS ADVENTURES
THE MINDLESS TALKS, THE CLASSMATES THAT CHANGED WITH THE SEASON, THE SPORTS FESTIVALS, SUMMER BREAK, CHRISTMAS
MY ENERGENTIC CLASSMATES,
THE TEACHER WHO YELLED AT US ALL THE TIME
NATALIE WITH HER WISDOM AND BEAUTY, WAS SOMEONE WHO I LOOKED UP TO
AND ABOVE ALL, SHE WAS SOMEONE I WAS PROUD TO CALL MY GUARDIAN
EACH AND EVERY TIME SHE LISTENED PATIENTLY TO WHAT I HAD TO SAY
ON WEEKENDS, I TALK TO NATALIE ABOUT SCHOOL AND MY FRIENDS




THE WAVES KEEP ON COMING AND CRUMBLING IT APART...
OH NO IT FELL APART AGAIN AND I WAS ALMOST DONE TOO!

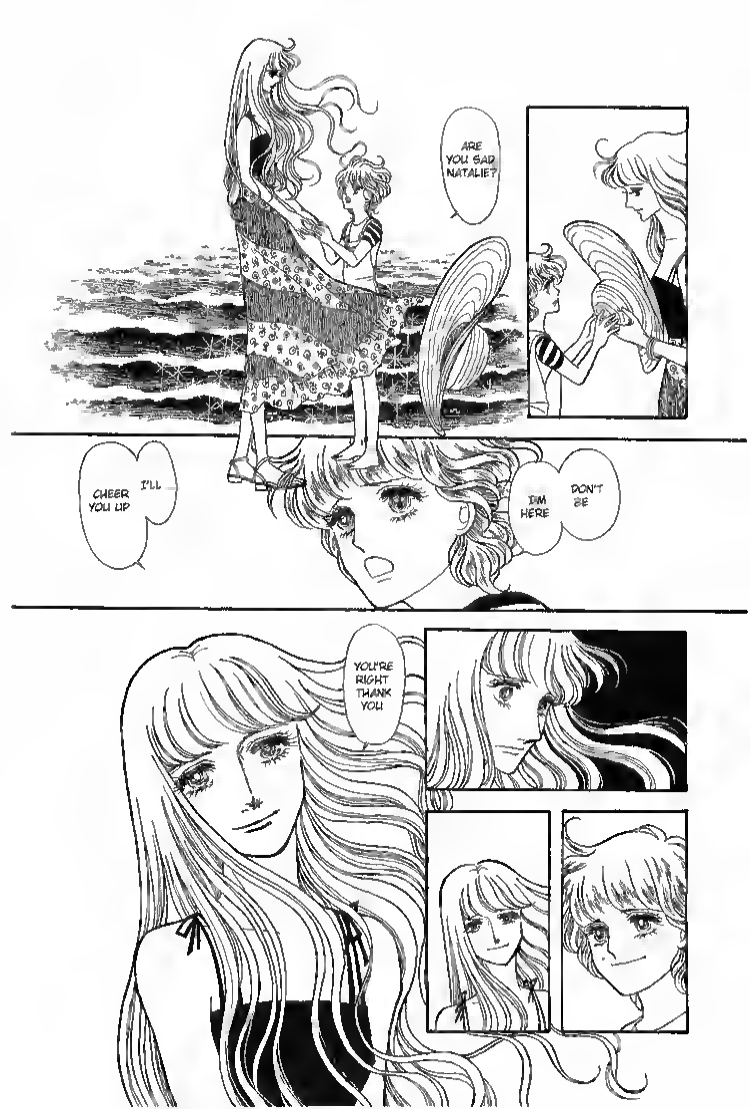
rustle

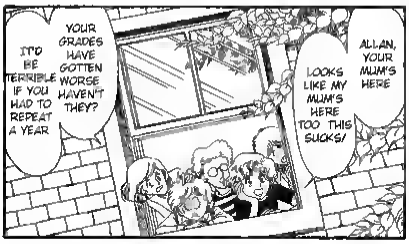

I'M MAKING A SAND CASTLE
DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

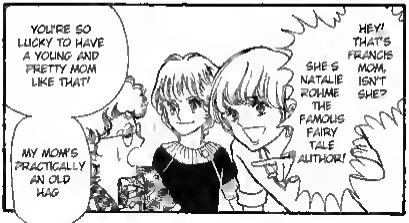
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NO. I CAN'T. THE SAND'S TOO DRY AND I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT...
YOU SHOULD JUST MAKE IT WHERE THE WAVES WON'T GET IT
splash splash
NATALIE! YOUR PART'S COLLAPSING!!
WHEN THE WAVES COME, IT MAKES THE CASTLE CRUMBLE!
HOW CYNICISTIC THAT WHERE IT'S SAFE YOU CAN'T MAKE IT
BUT WHERE YOU CAN MAKE IT, THE WAVES COME AND SWALLOW IT UP
IT'S AS IF WE'RE MAKING LIFE

PERHAPS LIFE IS LIKE BUILDING A SANDCASTLE
NO MATTER HOW MUCH EFFORT YOU PUT INTO BUILDING IT SOMEHOW THE WAVES COME TO TAKE IT AWAY BEFORE YOU REALIZE IT
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME REPETI-TION
I WONDER IF... ALL PEOPLE GROW OLD THAT WAY

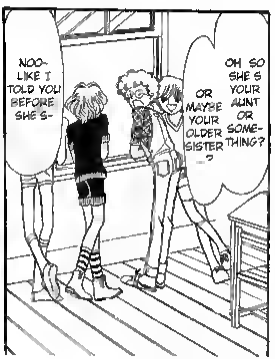

ARE YOU SAD NATALIE?
DON'T BE DIM HERE
I'LL CHEER YOU UP
YOU'RE RIGHT THANK YOU


ALLAN, YOUR MUM'S HERE
LOOKS LIKE MY MUM'S HERE TOO THIS SUCKS/
YOUR GRADES HAVE GOTTEN WORSE HAVEN'T THEY?
IT'D BE TERRIBLE IF YOU HAD TO REPEAT A YEAR


HEY! THAT'S FRANCIS MOM, ISN'T SHE?
SHE'S NATALIE ROHME THE FAMOUS FAIRY TALE AUTHOR!
YOU'RE SO LUCKY TO HAVE A YOUNG AND PRETTY MOM LIKE THAT!
MY MOM'S PRACTICALLY AN OLD HAG

SHE'S NOT MY MOM
SHE ADOPTED ME AFTER MY PARTENTS DIED
SHE HASN'T EVEN MARRIED YET SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE CALLED A MOM.

THAT'S WEIRD
YEAH WHY WOULD SHE TAKE YOU IN IF YOU'RE NOT EVEN RELATED TO HER?


OH SO SHE'S YOUR AUNT OR SOMETHING?
OR MAYBE YOUR OLDER SISTER...?
NOO- LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE SHE'S-

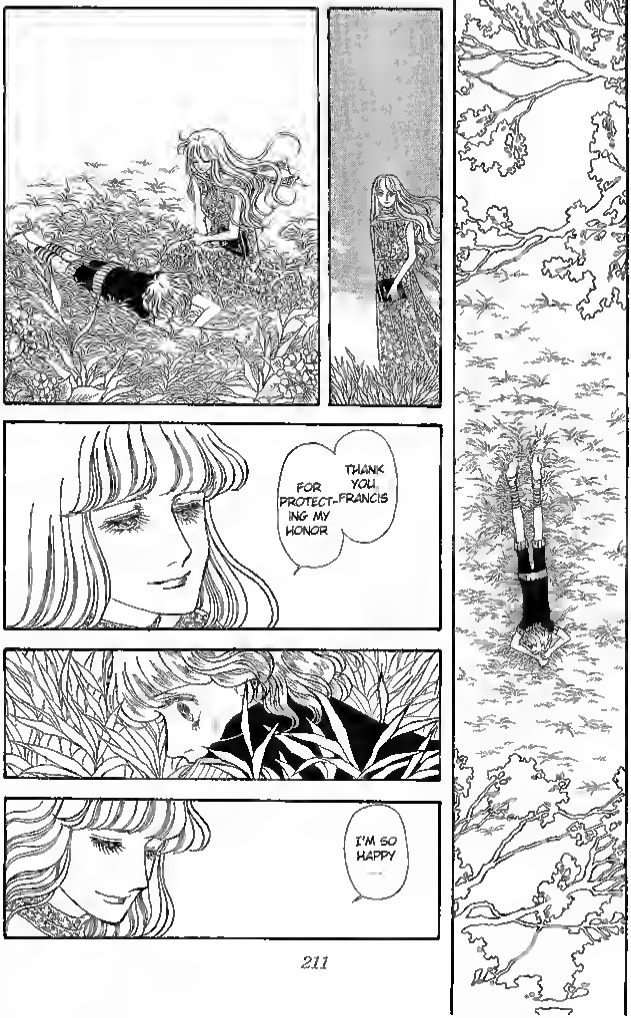
SHE SAID AUTHORS NEED TO HAVE PATRONS WITH THEM.
AND THAT YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY MIGHT BE DOING IN THE SHADOWS!
CUT IT OUT PIERRE
WHY? IT'S PROBABLY THE TRUTH
THEY'RE PROBABLY RELATED SOMEHOW...
AND SHE'S NOT EVEN MARRIED THAT MAKES IT EXTRA WEIRD.
MY MOM SAID SO
YOU'RE PROBABLY AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD
HOW COULD YOU SAY SOMETHING SO AWFUL
YOU INSULTED NATALIE
HEY, FRANCIS HE SAID HE'S SORRY,
OKAY, OKAY I'M SORRY, OKAY? DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
GO COME ON, LET'S JUST DROP IT OKAY?
Tap
W-WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

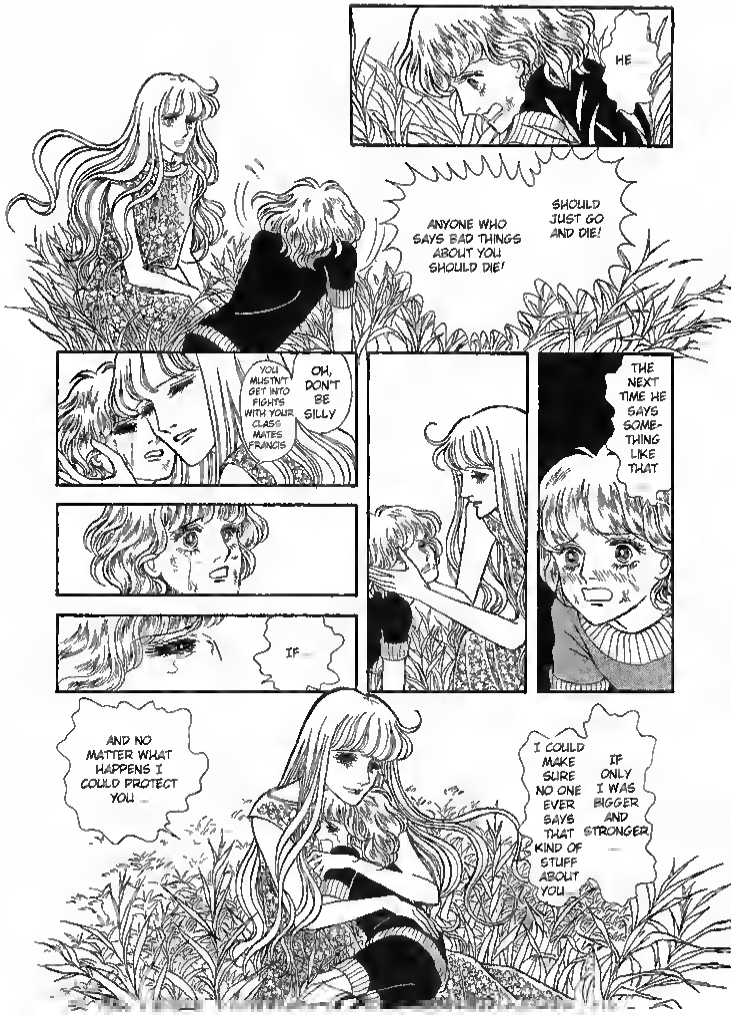
SIDO
FRANCIS! STOP IT FRANCIS!
I'LL MAKE SURE HE CAN NEVER OPEN HIS BIG MOUTH EVER AGAIN!
IF HE THINKS HE CAN GET AWAY WITH WHAT HE SAID WITH A SIMPLE APOLOGY HE S DEAD WRONG
WOAH!
FRANCIS AND PIERRE GOT INTO A FIGHT!
TEACHER! TEACHER! PLEASE COME RIGHT AWAY!
IS THAT RIGHT? WELL THAT'S WONDERFUL
HIS GRADES ARE NOTHING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT AND IF HE'S INTRESTED IN CONTINUING ONTO COLLEGIATE HE SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLES
FRANCIS IS DOING QUITE WELL

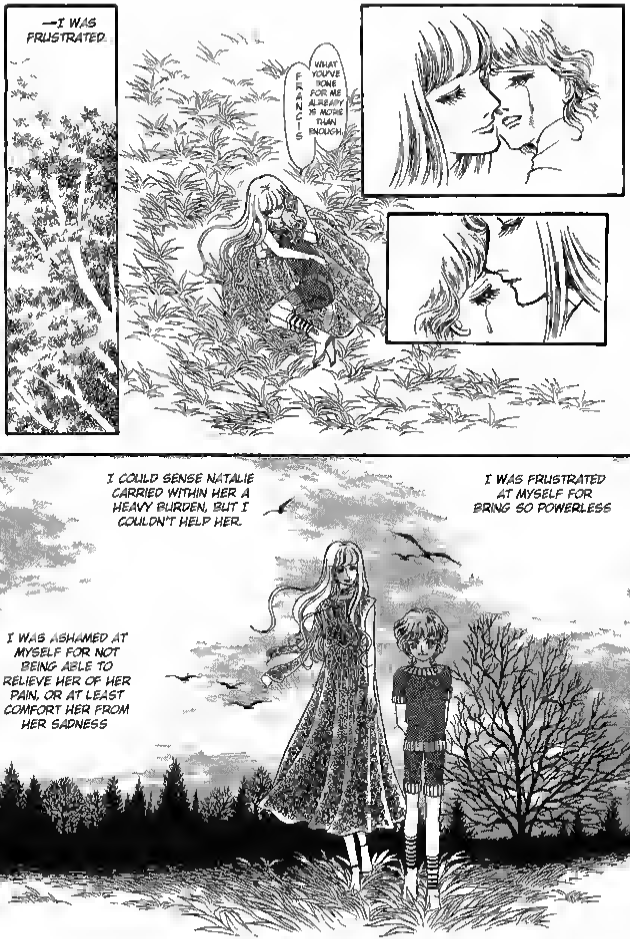
FRANCIS!
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
IF WE DON'T STOP FRANCIS SOON, PIERRE MIGHT-
FRANCIS IS OUT OF CONTROL! WE COULDN'T BREAK THEM UP!
HEY YOU TWO!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
THE TEACHER'S HERE!
HEY
WAIT, I'LL COME WITH YOU!
STOP IT YOU TWO!
STOP IT RIGHT THERE FRANCIS!
WAH!
DON'T RUN AWAY, YOU COWARD!
DASH
TEACHER, HELP ME!

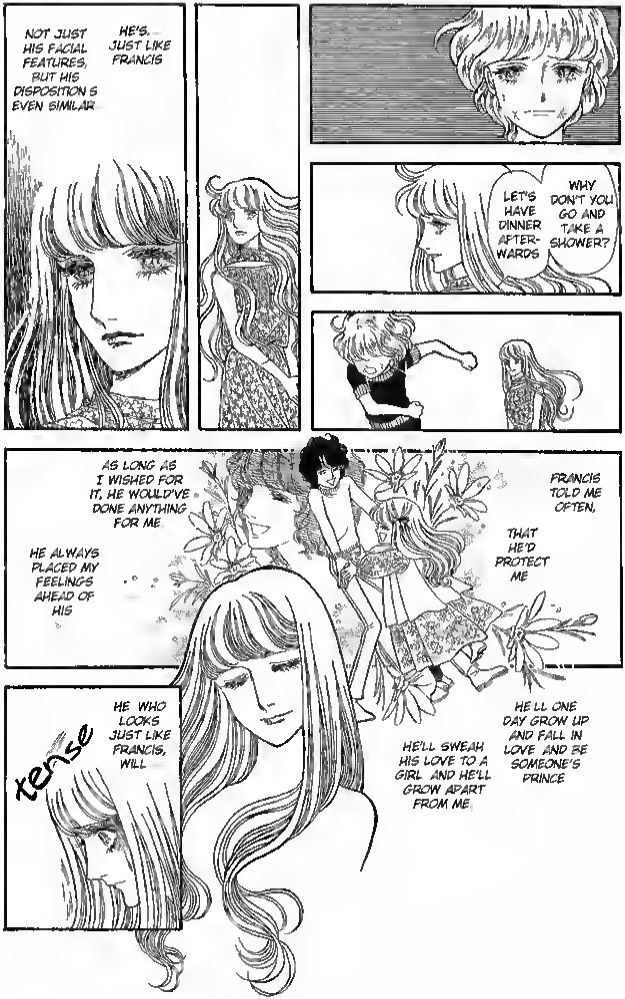
I DON'T WANT TO SAY IT!
uuu
uuu
WITH ALL THIS BIG COMMOTION THAT YOU'VE CREATED, THERE MUST'VE BEEN A PRETTY GOOD REASON FOR IT FRANCIS
SO TELL ME, WHY DID YOU TWO GET INTO THIS FIGHT?
blush
NATALIE
STOP IT!
LI-LIM ...AND
GO ON
HEY, BE QUIET!
LI-LIM... PIERRE SAID FRANCIS MIGHT BE AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD...

dash
PIERRE SAID THAT AUTHORS DON'T MAKE ENOUGH TO EAT WITHOUT HAVING A PATRON WITH THEM,
AND THAT'S WHEN FRANCIS SUDDENLY PUNCHED PIERRE
HE GOT REALLY MAD AND HE SAID THAT PIERRE INSULTED MISS NATALIE
FRANCIS!
NATALIE HEARD WHAT HE SAID!
SHE HEARD WHAT HE SAID!
OH FRANCIS...
PIERRE, GO TO THE NURSE'S ROOM AND GET YOURSELF PATCHED UP!
AND FROM NOW ON BE MORE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY
clunk

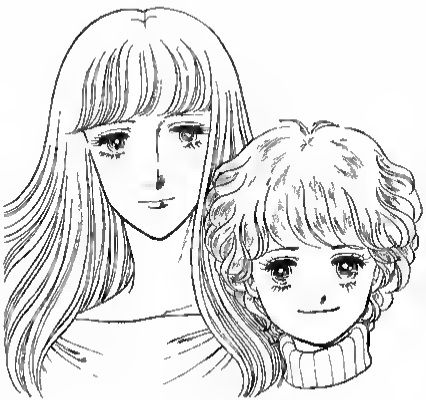

THANK YOU, FRANCIS FOR PROTECTING MY HONOR
I'M SO HAPPY


HE...
ANYONE WHO SAYS BAD THINGS ABOUT YOU SHOULD DIE!
SHOULD JUST GO AND DIE!
YOU MUSTN'T GET INTO FIGHTS WITH YOUR CLASS MATES FRANCIS
OH, DON'T BE SILLY
THE NEXT TIME HE SAYS SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
IF...
AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS I COULD PROTECT YOU...
I COULD MAKE SURE NO ONE EVER SAYS THAT KIND OF STUFF ABOUT YOU...
IF ONLY I WAS BIGGER AND STRONGER...


—I WAS FRUSTRATED.
FRANCIS
WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME ALREADY IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
I COULD SENSE NATALIE CARRIED WITHIN HER A HEAVY BURDEN, BUT I COULDN'T HELP HER.
I WAS FRUSTRATED AT MYSELF FOR BEING SO POWERLESS
I WAS ASHAMED AT MYSELF FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO RELIEVE HER OF HER PAIN, OR AT LEAST COMFORT HER FROM HER SADNESS


NOT JUST HIS FACIAL FEATURES, BUT HIS DISPOSITION S EVEN SIMILAR
HE'S... JUST LIKE FRANCIS
WHY DON'T YOU GO AND TAKE A SHOWER?
LET'S HAVE DINNER AFTER-WARDS
AS LONG AS I WISHED FOR IT, HE WOULD'VE DONE ANYTHING FOR ME
HE ALWAYS PLACED MY FEELINGS AHEAD OF HIS
FRANCIS TOLD ME OFTEN,
THAT HE'D PROTECT ME
HE'LL ONE DAY GROW UP AND FALL IN LOVE AND BE SOMEONE'S PRINCE
HE'LL SWEAR HIS LOVE TO A GIRL AND HE'LL GROW APART FROM ME
HE WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE FRANCIS, WILL
tense

I WANT TO GROW UP FAST
I WANT TO BE BIG ENOUGH TO PROTECT NATALIE
Splash
Splash
WAIT FOR ME, NATALIE
SO DON'T GO AND BECOME SOMEONE ELSE S
WAIT FOR ME NATALIE I'LL DE MY HARDEST TO GROW UP AS QUICKLY AS I CAN



APPY EASTER FROM JSHOUJO.
http://chibuyiki.deviantart.com
ENJOY YOUR H

SUNA NO SHIRO
CHAPTER 06

Brought to you by
Jshoujo Scans

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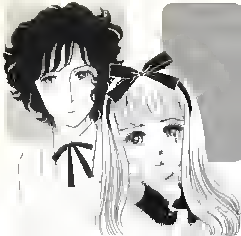
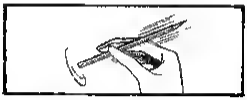


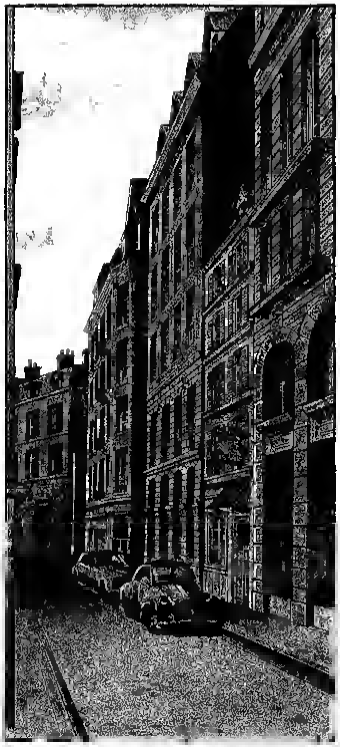
JSHOUJO RECRUITMENT PAGE

VISIT THE JSHOUJO FORUM AND WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO!
JSHOUJO NEEDS TRANSLATORS! C-E AND J-E! COME JOIN US!!
WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW! JOIN!



AND THAT'S A WRAP
OKAY

HEY, NATALIE!
WATCHING YOU WORK LIKE THIS-IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU'RE ALREADY A FULL-FLEDGED EDITOR!

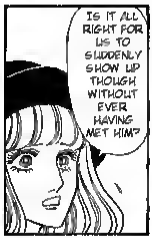


WHAT SHE SAID SHE'S BEEN OUR RESIDENT OGRE SHE'S CAPABLE OF PUTTING MEN IN THEIR PLACE AND MAKING BABIES CRY
WELL I'D HOPE SO I'VE BEEN WORKING PRETTY HARD AT IT LATELY

OH LET'S NOT TALK OF GROWING OLD
MAY I REMIND YOU YOU'RE 30 AND YOU'RE STILL SINGLE TOO!
HEY! GETTING MARRIED ISN'T EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!
YOU'RE 28 AND YOU'RE STILL SINGLE
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON WORKING LIKE THIS?
AND WE WERE JUST TALKING OF INVITING YOU TWO TO HIS PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF HIS EXHIBITION.
CLICK
OH, MR. ROBERT SAID THERE WAS SOME GOOD NEWS
SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY NATALIE?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. VAUGUE DU LANFERRE, THE PAINTER WHO YOU'RE SO FOND OF, IS ACTUALLY MICHELE'S UNCLE
IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE ART EXHIBITION I'VE ALREADY VISITED IT WAS WONDERFUL
WELL SORRY FOR BEING A PUNY PUBLISHING COMPANY
Whistles
YOU'VE MOVED TO A PRETTY SWANKY PLACE.
THANKS TO NATALIE, YOUR PUNY PUBLISHING COMPANY'S MOVED UP SOME RANKS..

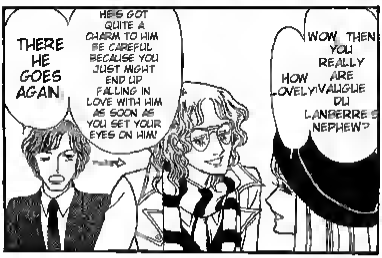
OH, SO I GET TO GO TOO?
HERE'S THE INVITATION FOR THE BOTH OF YOU
HE'S ALREADY LIVED THROUGH A GOOD NUMBER OF SEASONS BUT HE STILL HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR BEAUTIES
WHEN I TOLD MY UNCLE ABOUT YOU, HE SAID HE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU IF HE COULD.

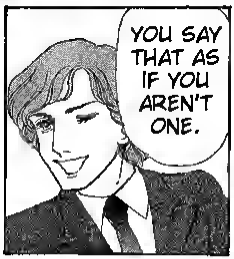
I BET YOU'RE CHATTING UP EVERY FEMALE PATIENT WHO COMES INTO YOUR OFFICE!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A DOCTOR!
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I'M A PLAYER?
WELL YOU ARE ONE AREN'T YOU?

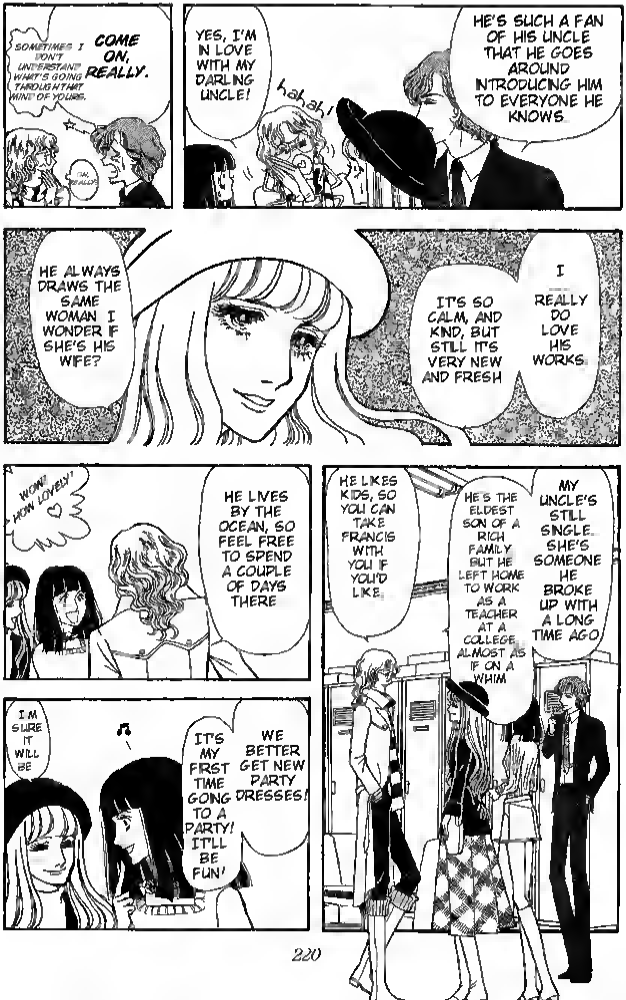

IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR US TO SUDDENLY SHOW UP THOUGH WITHOUT EVER HAVING MET HIM?

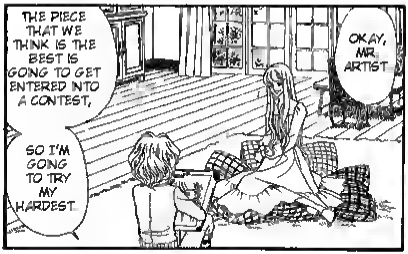
I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO DO IT?
WELL THEN.
I SAID HE HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR BEAUTIES DIDN'T I?

MICHELE!!
KYAA
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT WE PRETEND YOU'RE MY DARLING THEN?

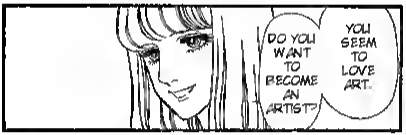

THERE HE GOES AGAIN
HE'S GOT QUITE A CHARM TO HIM BE CAREFUL BECAUSE YOU JUST MIGHT END UP FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM AS SOON AS YOU SET YOUR EYES ON HIM!
WOW, THEN YOU REALLY ARE LOVELY VALQUE DU LANERRE'S NEPHEW?


YOU SAY THAT AS IF YOU AREN'T ONE.

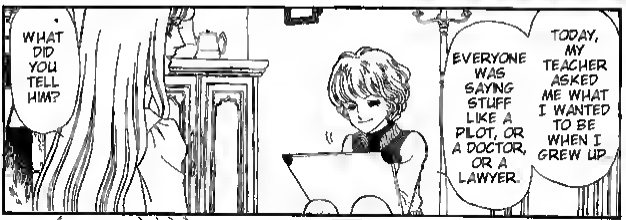

SOMETIMES I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING THROUGH THAT MIND OF YOURS.
COME ON, REALLY.
OH, REALLY.
YES, I'M IN LOVE WITH MY DARLING UNCLE!
hahaha
HE'S SUCH A FAN OF HIS UNCLE THAT HE GOES AROUND INTRODUCING HIM TO EVERYONE HE KNOWS.
HE ALWAYS DRAWS THE SAME WOMAN. I WONDER IF SHE'S HIS WIFE?
IT'S SO CALM, AND KIND, BUT STILL IT'S VERY NEW AND FRESH
I REALLY DO LOVE HIS WORKS.
WOW! HOW LOVELY!
HE LIVES BY THE OCEAN, SO FEEL FREE TO SPEND A COUPLE OF DAYS THERE
I'M SURE IT WILL BE
IT'S MY FIRST TIME GOING TO A PARTY! IT'LL BE FUN!
WE BETTER GET NEW PARTY DRESSES!
HE LIKES KIDS, SO YOU CAN TAKE FRANCIS WITH YOU IF YOU'D LIKE.
HE'S THE ELDEST SON OF A RICH FAMILY BUT HE LEFT HOME TO WORK AS A TEACHER AT A COLLEGE ALMOST AS IF ON A WHIM.
MY UNCLE'S STILL SINGLE. SHE'S SOMEONE HE BROKE UP WITH A LONG TIME AGO.


THE PIECE THAT WE THINK IS THE BEST IS GOING TO GET ENTERED INTO A CONTEST.
SO I'M GOING TO TRY MY HARDEST.
OKAY, MR. ARTIST

I'M YOU REAL PRETTY
YOU CAN'T MOVE, NATALIE

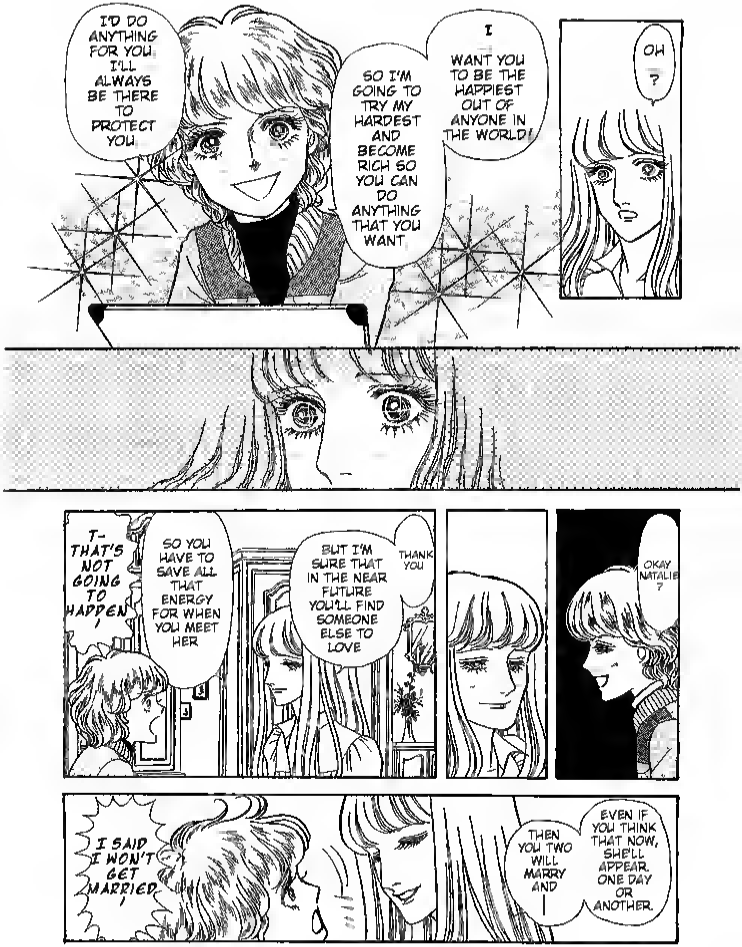

YOU SEEM TO LOVE ART.
DO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ARTIST?

WELL IF I CAN BECOME ONE, SURE


WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM?
EVERYONE WAS SAYING STUFF LIKE A PILOT, OR A DOCTOR, OR A LAWYER.
TODAY, MY TEACHER ASKED ME WHAT I WANTED TO BE WHEN I GREW UP.

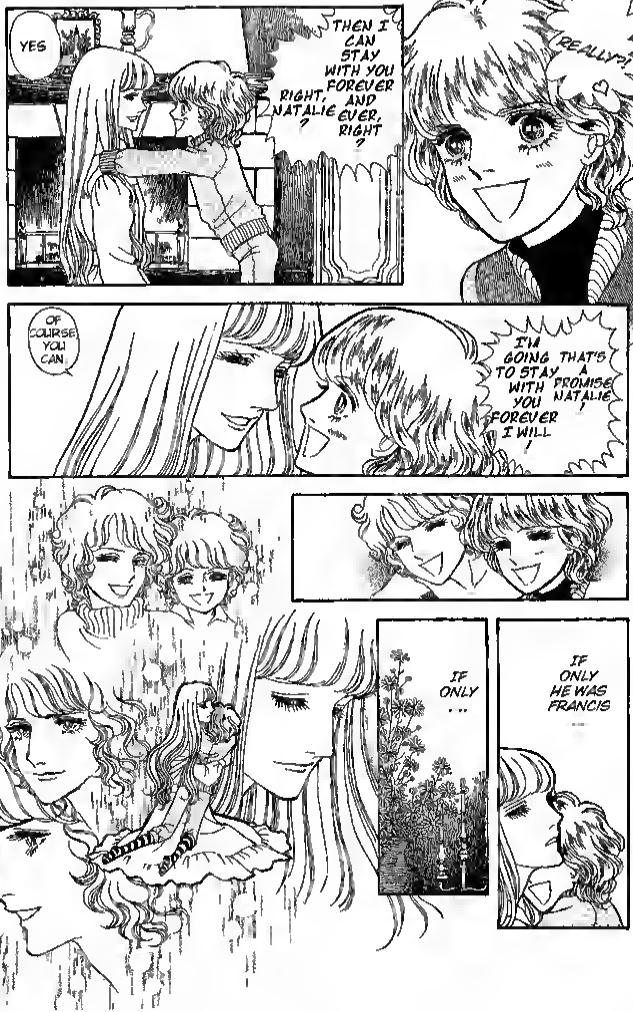
SAID THAT I WANTED TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO'S CAPABLE OF GIVING HAPPINESS TO A PERSON.

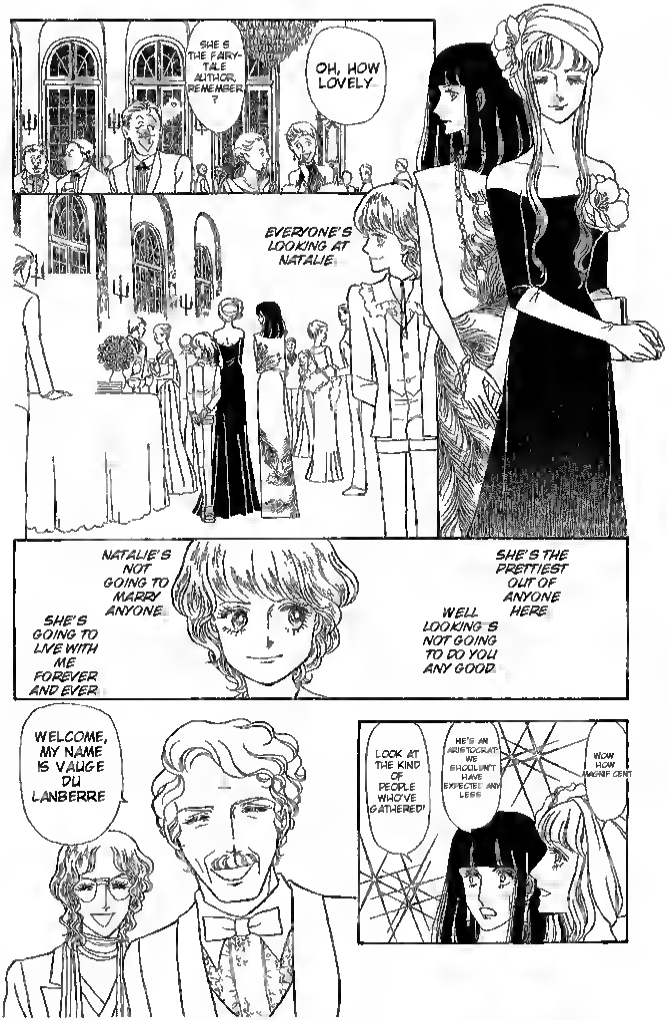
I...

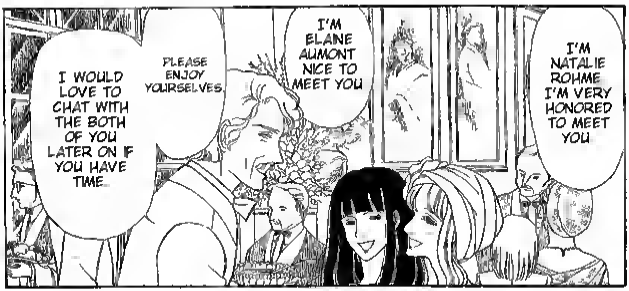

I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE TO PROTECT YOU.
SO I'M GOING TO TRY MY HARDEST AND BECOME RICH SO YOU CAN DO ANYTHING THAT YOU WANT.
I WANT YOU TO BE THE HAPPIEST OUT OF ANYONE IN THE WORLD!
OH ?
T-THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN !
SO YOU HAVE TO SAVE ALL THAT ENERGY FOR WHEN YOU MEET HER
BUT I'M SURE THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE YOU'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO LOVE
THANK YOU
OKAY NATALIE ?
I SAID I WON'T GET MARRIED !
THEN YOU TWO WILL MARRY AND
EVEN IF YOU THINK THAT NOW, SHE'LL APPEAR ONE DAY OR ANOTHER.

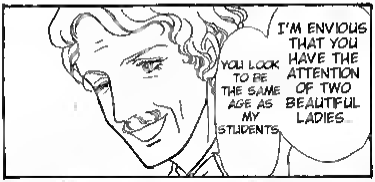
THAT PARTY THAT YOU'RE GOING TO MR ROBERT'S GOING TOO, ISN'T HE?
WELL YES SINCE HE IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH MR LANBERRE
WHY DO YOU ASK?
ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY?
I'M GOING TO LIVE HERE WITH YOU
I'M NOT!
HMM?
HE PROBABLY WANTS TO MARRY YOU
I CAN TELL.
HE LIKES YOU
AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HATE HIM, RIGHT?
HE'S A GROWN UP,
OH DON'T BE RIDICULOUS
THEN YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY HIM?!
WELL, NO, I DON'T HATE HIM

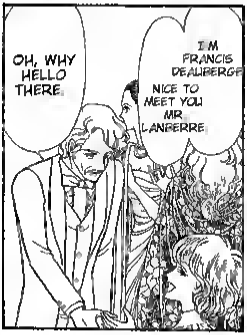
NATALIE ANSWER ME
I'M ASKING YOU! ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY HIM?! YES OR NO ?!
I DON'T SEE HOW THAT CAN LEAD YOU TO COME TO THAT CONCLUSION
NO!
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO MARRY ?
I WON'T MARRY ANY-ONE
U-UMM...
WHY NOT ?
W-WELL...


YES
THEN I CAN STAY WITH YOU FOREVER AND EVER, RIGHT?
RIGHT, NATALIE?
REALLY?!
OF COURSE YOU CAN.
I'M GOING TO STAY WITH YOU FOREVER
THAT'S A PROMISE, NATALIE, I WILL!
IF ONLY . . .
IF ONLY HE WAS FRANCIS

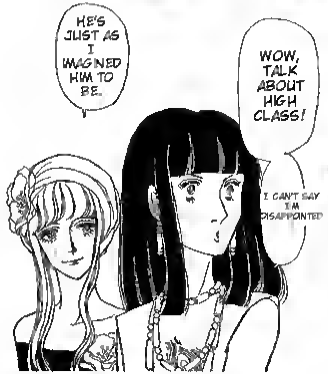

SHE'S THE FAIRY-TALE AUTHOR, REMEMBER?
OH, HOW LOVELY
EVERYONE'S LOOKING AT NATALIE
NATALIE'S NOT GOING TO MARRY ANYONE
SHE'S GOING TO LIVE WITH ME FOREVER AND EVER
SHE'S THE PRETTIEST OUT OF ANYONE HERE
WELL LOOKING'S NOT GOING TO DO YOU ANY GOOD
WELCOME, MY NAME IS VAUGE DU LANBERRE
LOOK AT THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO'VE GATHERED!
HE'S AN ARISTOCRAT! WE SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED ANY LESS
WOW HOW IMPRESSIVE!


I'M NATALIE ROHME I'M VERY HONORED TO MEET YOU
I'M ELAINE AUMONT NICE TO MEET YOU
PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELVES
I WOULD LOVE TO CHAT WITH THE BOTH OF YOU LATER ON IF YOU HAVE TIME





*(collèges' is the school that caters to children from 11-15)



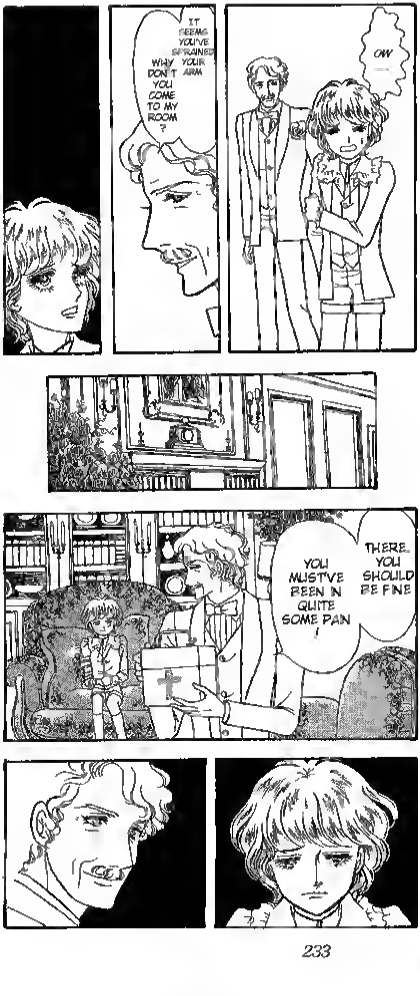
MICHELE, WHO IS THAT BOY?
OH, YOU MEAN FRANCIS?
HE'S THE BOY WHO NATALIE ADOPTED
(DEALIBERGE...)
HE'S THE SON OF HER LOVER WHO PASSED AWAY
SHE'S HAD QUITE THE TOUGH LIFE SO FAR
WHY DO YOU ASK?
NO, IT'S NOTHING... HE'S JUST SUCH AN ADORABLE CHILD.
OH, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SWUNG THAT WAY
I LOVE ANYTHING THAT'S BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME

WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, MAY I ASK?
IT'S JUST I HAVEN'T FOUND THE RIGHT PERSON YET
OH, BUT IT'S NOT AS IF I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED
WELL THEN, WHY DON'T WE SET UP AN ALLIANCE FOR THE SINGLES?
WELL SINCE YOU ASKED
WHAT DO YOU SAY THEN?
WELL THEN EVERYONE HERE WOULD MEET YOUR STANDARDS
AND GOOD LOOKING, AND SOMEONE WHO'S NOT ONE TO DO THINGS BEHIND MY BACK
SOMEONE RELIABLE
I'M NOT BORED
IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMEONE YOUR OWN AGE WHO YOU COULD TALK TO HERE
OUR TALKS MUST BE BORING YOU
YAWN
YOU LOOK TIRED. PERHAPS IT'S TIME WE GOT SOME REST?

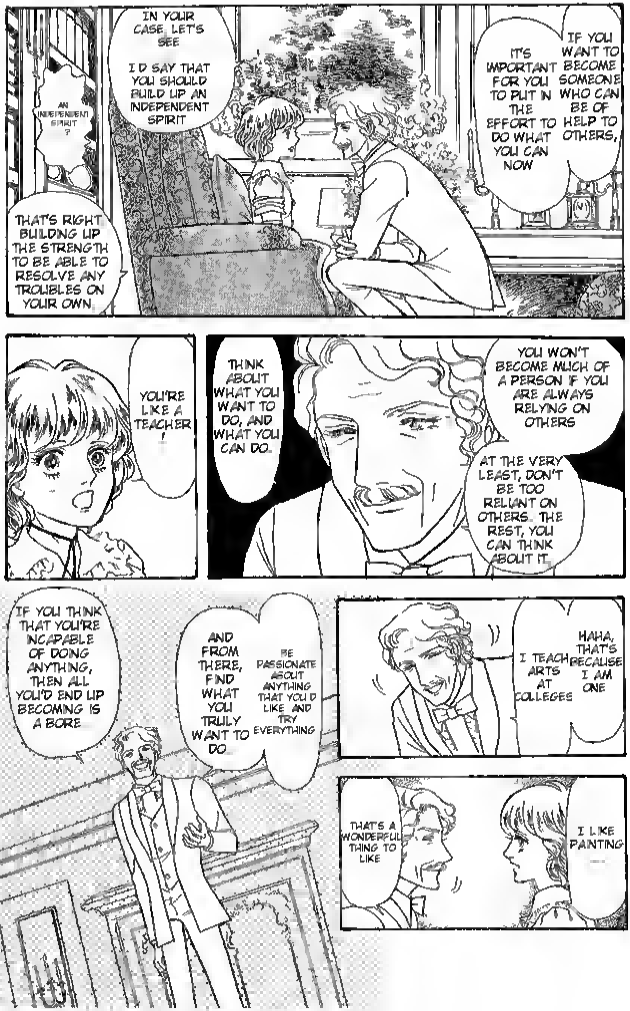
YOU APPRECIATE IT ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US
HAVE YOU NO APPRECIATION FOR NATURE?
IF I HAD THE CHOICE, I'D PREFER A WOMAN SINGING ME A LULLABY ANY DAY OF THE WEEK
TO ME IT'S BECOME LIKE A LULLABY
THERE'S NOT MUCH OUT HERE IN THE COUNTRY, BUT SLEEPING TO THE SOUND OF THE OCEAN WAVES ISN'T SO TERRIBLE.
KYAAAA!
WHAT! YOU'VE HARDLY HAD ANY THOUGH,
I FEEL A BIT DIZZY
PERHAPS I'VE HAD A BIT TOO MUCH TO DRINK
ELAINE YOU DON'T SEEM TO—
WATCH OUT, NATALIE!

NATALIE! FRANCIS!
THUD
WHERE DID YOU GET HIT ?!
ARE YOU OKAY, NATALIE ?!
I THINK I SPRAINED MY LEG A BIT.
IT'S OKAY THOUGH, I'LL BE FINE
DOES IT HURT? CAN YOU WALK ?
I'M SORRY... I TRIED TO SAVE YOU BUT I FELL WITH YOU.
NATALIE HOLD ON TO ME
I'M A BOY! I'M FINE!
FRANCIS, WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?
KYA!
WE BETTER APPLY AN ICE PATCH RIGHT AWAY
IT'S BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T WALK.

LET ME HELP YOU
BUT WHAT IF YOU SPRAINED IT?
I-I'M FINE WALKING BY MYSELF, MR. ROBERT
MICHELS, COULD YOU BRING ME A FIRST AID KIT?
IT'S TOO BIG OF A JOB FOR YOU, FRANCIS
MR. ROBERT, I CAN
YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOURSELF ARE YOU OKAY?
"IT'S TOO BIG OF A JOB FOR YOU."
"IT'S TOO BIG OF A JOB FOR YOU."
YOU SHOULD'VE HELD ONTO THE RAILS!
DOES IT HURT NATALIE?

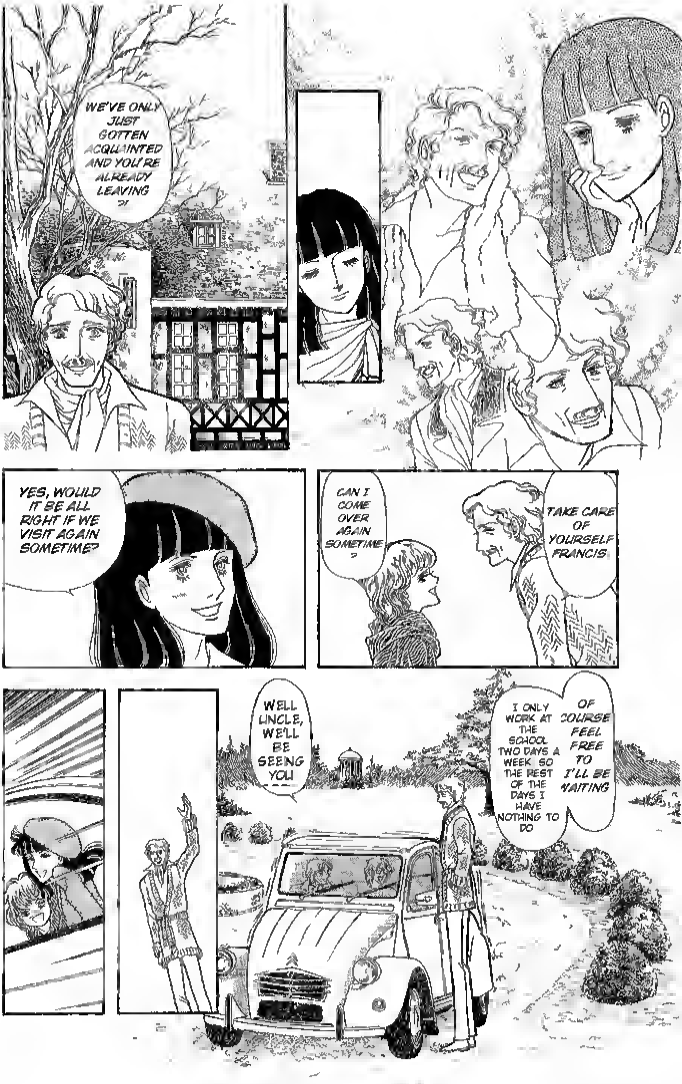

I CAN'T PROTECT NATALIE
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I CARE FOR HER, IF I ONLY HAVE MY FEELINGS TO OFFER TO HER, THEN IT'S NOT ENOUGH
OW
IT SEEMS YOU'VE SPRAINED YOUR ARM. WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY ROOM?
THERE. YOU SHOULD BE FINE
YOU MUSTVE BEEN IN QUITE SOME PAIN!

IF IT HAD BEEN MR ROBERT, HE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO CATCH HER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I FELL WITH HER
IF ONLY I HAD A BIT MORE STRENGTH
YOU'RE A SPLENDID KNIGHT
YOU JUMPED TO HER AID WITHOUT ANY THOUGHT FOR YOUR SAFETY.
YOU SHOWED QUITE SOME COURAGE OUT THERE
BUT JUST TRYING TO HELP HER ISN'T ENOUGH
BUT IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO PUSH YOURSELF TOO MUCH FRANCIS.
I DON'T WANT TO BE A KID. I'LL JUST ALWAYS BE IN HER WAY. NOTHING GOOD COMES OUT OF IT.
I WANT TO BECOME AN ADULT QUICKLY
THAN HOW FAST YOU CAN BECOME AN ADULT.
HOW GREAT OF A PERSON YOU CAN BE, IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT
YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE DESIRE TO BECOME BETTER, AND THE EFFORT TO MATCH THAT DESIRE
IT'S THE SAME WITH PAINTING NO ONE'S GOOD FROM THE VERY BEGINNING


IN YOUR CASE, LET'S SEE
I'D SAY THAT YOU SHOULD BUILD UP AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT
AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT ?
THAT'S RIGHT. BUILDING UP THE STRENGTH TO BE ABLE TO RESOLVE ANY TROUBLES ON YOUR OWN.
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO PUT IN THE EFFORT TO DO WHAT YOU CAN NOW
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO CAN BE OF HELP TO OTHERS,
YOU'RE LIKE A TEACHER !
THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO.
YOU WON'T BECOME MUCH OF A PERSON IF YOU ARE ALWAYS RELYING ON OTHERS
AT THE VERY LEAST, DON'T BE TOO RELIANT ON OTHERS. THE REST, YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IT.
IF YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE INCAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING, THEN ALL YOU'D END UP BECOMING IS A BORE
AND FROM THERE, FIND WHAT YOU TRULY WANT TO DO.
BE PASSIONATE ABOUT ANYTHING THAT YOU'D LIKE AND TRY EVERYTHING
I TEACH ARTS AT COLLEGES
HAHA, THAT'S BECAUSE I AM ONE
THAT'S A WONDERFUL THING TO LIKE
I LIKE PAINTING

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE DESIRE WITHIN YOU YOU'LL BE FINE
I'M SURE YOU'LL ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOALS
I WONDER IF I CAN BECOME SOMEONE GREAT!
YOU'RE RIGHT
WHAT AN ADORABLE CHILD
THANK YOU, MR. LANHERRE
GOOD NIGHT
HE'S RIGHT! I CAN'T ALWAYS BE RELYING ON NATALIE LIKE THIS
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE SOMETHING THIS SIMPLE BEFORE ?!
IF I DO, THEN I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PROTECT HER!

NOT BAD!
SWOOSH
I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED YET!
SWOOSH
SWISH
WOW!
THAT'S AMAZING!
LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONE WHO GOT MY BUTT KICKED.
IF WE DID A REMATCH I ASSURE YOU I'D BE THE ONE WHO LOSES
MY BODY STRENGTH HAS JUST ABOUT REACHED ITS LIMIT
HERE HE CAN BERRRE!
WHY THANK YOU FRANCIS.
MARCO SEEMS TO LIKE HIM VERY MUCH!
YES HE'S BECOME A VERY BIG FAN OF HIS.

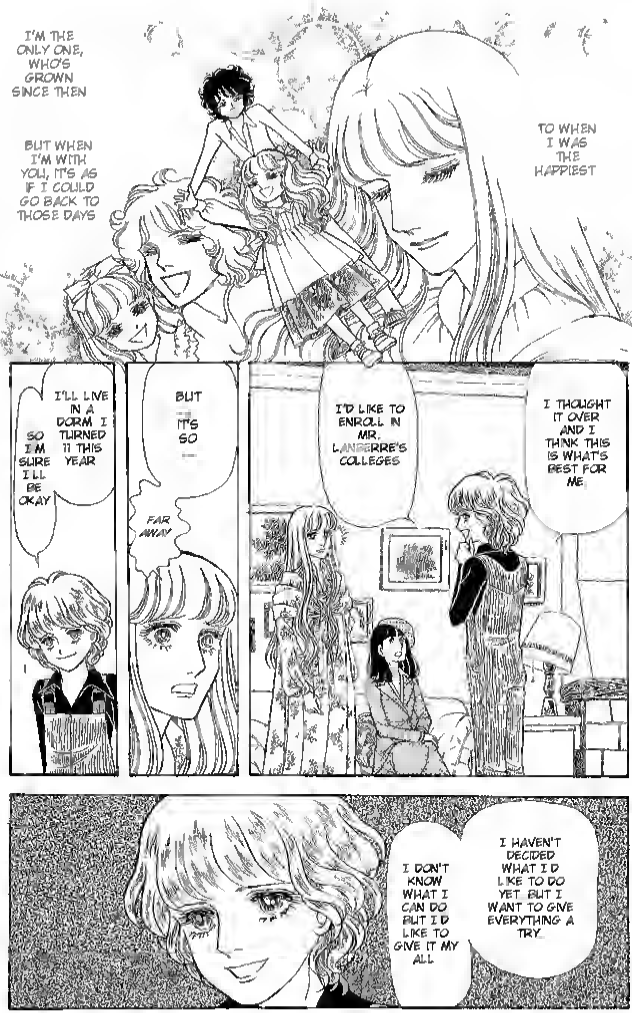

WE'VE ONLY JUST GOTTEN ACQUAINTED AND YOU'RE ALREADY LEAVING ?!
YES, WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF WE VISIT AGAIN SOMETIME?
CAN I COME OVER AGAIN SOMETIME ?
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF FRANCIS.
WELL UNCLE, WE'LL BE SEEING YOU!
I ONLY WORK AT THE SCHOOL TWO DAYS A WEEK SO THE REST OF THE DAYS I HAVE NOTHING TO DO
OF COURSE FEEL FREE TO I'LL BE WAITING

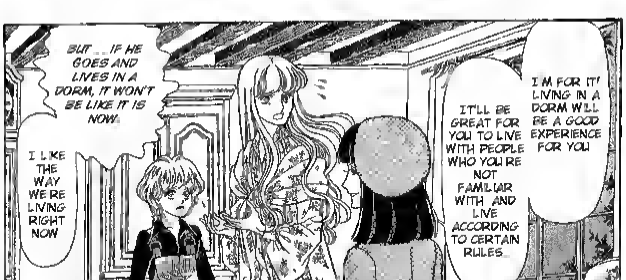
I REALLY SHOULD GIVE THEM MY THANKS FOR INTRODUCING ME TO SUCH A WONDERFUL PERSON
YEAH...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE BEEN SIGHING EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK
I LIKE MR. LANDERRE, TOO
HE KNOWS EVERYTHING AND HE'S REALLY NICE, TOO
YOU COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER PERSON... HE WOULD BE PERFECT FOR YOU
I'LL CHEER YOU ON! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE TO GIVE ME THE PUSH WHEN I NEEDED IT.
THANK YOU NATALIE
MY ELAINE
OH NO ELAINE YOU'RE WONDERFUL
THE AGE DIFFERENCE SHOULDN'T MATTER
I WONDER IF I WOULDN'T BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIM?
OUR AGES ARE SO FAR APART. WE COULD BE FATHER AND CHILD.

YOU LOVE HIM ?
I-IN OTHER WORDS I-I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
BUT HER "LIKE" IS A BIT DIFFERENT FROM YOURS FRANCIS
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS! MY DADDY TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO.
THAT WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE YOU WANT TO BE WITH THAT PERSON MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE
AND... UM... OH YEAH.. BEING IN LOVE MEANS YOU WANT THAT PERSON ONLY FOR YOURSELF... RIGHT ?
NATALIE! YOU KNOW DADDY ?
FRANCIS SAID THAT ?!
REALLY ?!
BECAUSE OF CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES HE WAS LIVING WITH NATALIE AND HER FAMILY
NATALIE AND YOUR FATHER WERE PRACTICALLY LIKE SIBLINGS GROWING UP
WERE YOU A FRIEND OF HIS ?

EVEN AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED, I STILL BELIEVED YOUR FEELINGS WERE MINE ALONE
WAS I WRONG ?
IS THAT HOW YOU FELT TOWARDS HER, FRANCIS?
JUST AS YOU HAD ME,
YOU FELT THOSE KIND OF EMOTIONS TOWARDS HER?
"YOU WANT TO BE WITH THAT PERSON MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...
YOU WANT THAT PERSON ONLY FOR YOURSELF
LET'S JUST DROP THIS SUBJECT TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE WHO'S NO LONGER WITH US WILL JUST BRING BACK MEMORIES WE'D RATHER NOT BRING TO SURFACE
THAT'S WHY YOU TOOK ME IN!
SO YOU KNEW DADDY FROM WHEN HE WAS REALLY LITTLE ?!
DO I REMIND YOU OF HIM?
NATALIE, WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS HE GROWING UP?

REALLY, NATALIE ?!
YOUR FATHER WAS A HARD-WORKER, AND SO SMART. HE WAS LIKED BY EVERYONE
YOU'RE JUST LIKE HIM. YOU REMIND ME SO MUCH OF HIM.
HE WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON
HE WAS SOMEONE WITH A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY
YEAH, NATALIE !
LIKE ... YOUR FATHER ?
MR. LANDERRE TOLD ME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT GREAT OF A PERSON I CAN BE!
I'LL BECOME SOMEONE LIKE DADDY!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE PAPA.
SOMETIMES, IT'S AS IF SHE WERE BACK IN TIME.
IF I TRY MY HARDEST, I'LL BE ABLE TO BE JUST LIKE MY DADDY, RIGHT ?


I'M THE ONLY ONE, WHO'S GROWN SINCE THEN
BUT WHEN I'M WITH YOU, IT'S AS IF I COULD GO BACK TO THOSE DAYS
TO WHEN I WAS THE HAPPIEST
I'LL LIVE IN A DORM I TURNED 11 THIS YEAR
SO I'M SURE I'LL BE OKAY
BUT IT'S SO
FAR AWAY
I'D LIKE TO ENROLL IN MR. LANSERRE'S COLLEGES
I THOUGHT IT OVER AND I THINK THIS IS WHAT'S BEST FOR ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO BUT I'D LIKE TO GIVE IT MY ALL
I HAVEN'T DECIDED WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO YET. BUT I WANT TO GIVE EVERYTHING A TRY.


I'M FOR IT! LIVING IN A DORM WILL BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR YOU
IT'LL BE GREAT FOR YOU TO LIVE WITH PEOPLE WHO YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH AND LIVE ACCORDING TO CERTAIN RULES...
BUT... IF HE GOES AND LIVES IN A DORM, IT WON'T BE LIKE IT IS NOW.
I LIKE THE WAY WE'RE LIVING RIGHT NOW

I DON'T WANT TO PART FROM YOU EITHER, NATALIE.
BUT I'LL COME BACK ON WEEKENDS
IF I STAY HERE I FEEL AS IF I'LL END UP RELYING ON YOU TOO MUCH

SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU WANT TO LEAVE ME ...?
NO. THAT'S NOT IT. I WANT TO BE LIKE DADDY
FOR THAT TO COME TRUE I THINK THIS'LL BE THE BEST WAY FOR ME

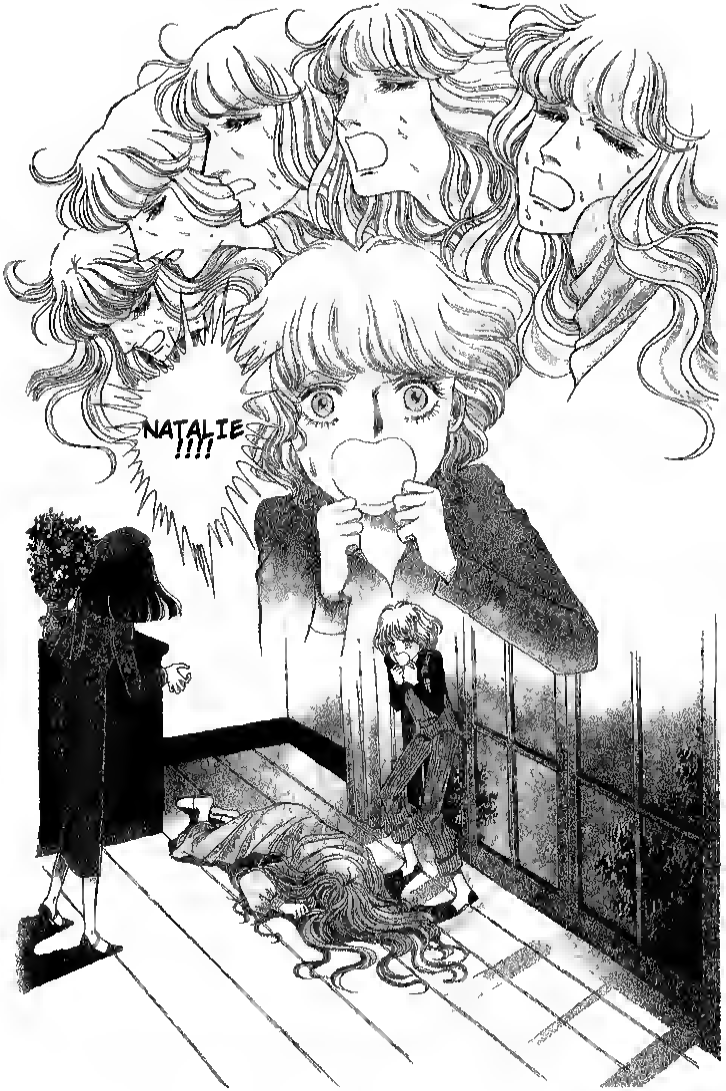
I WAS SO LONELY I FELT AS IF I WOULD DIE FROM THAT LONELINESS
WHEN FRANCIS ATTENDED A SCHOOL FAR AWAY
AND NOW HE'S TRYING TO DO THE SAME THING

TYPESETTER'S NOTE: OOH! LOOKS LIKE SHE'S LOSING IT!

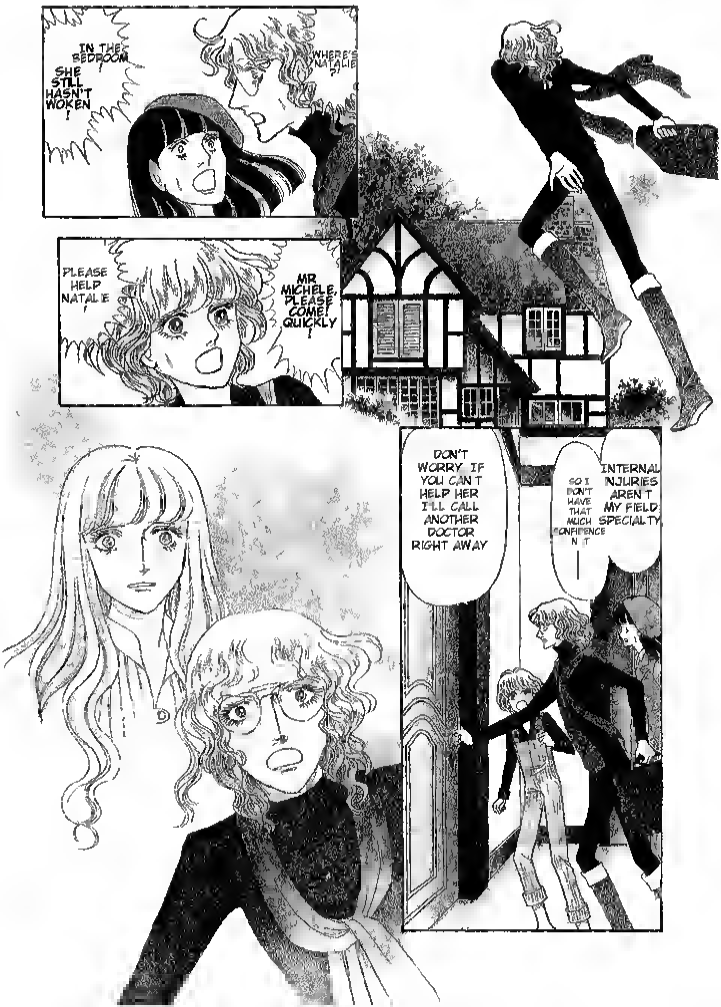
WHY IS RELYING ON ME A BAD THING?! YOU'RE STILL A CHILD!!
CAN DO ANYTHING HERE TOO!
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO LEAVE HOME!!
YOU
THE BOY WHO CLAIMED TO WANT TO BE WITH ME AND TO PROTECT ME
IS TRYING TO LEAVE ME BEHIND
ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE AND BECOME SOMEONE OUT OF MY REACH JUST LIKE THEM ?
YOU'RE STILL OF AGE WHEN YOU SHOULD BE PLAYING OUTSIDE WITH KIDS! WHY DO YOU WANT TO FORCE YOURSELF TO LEAVE HOME?!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO LEAVE ME ?!
SO WHAT ?!
I KNOW I'M STILL A KID THAT'S WHY
HE'S GOING TO LEAVE ME !
IT'S THE SAME THING !
CALM DOWN, NATALIE. HE'S NOT SUGGESTING THIS BECAUSE HE WANTS TO LEAVE YOU!

NO! WHY DOES EVERYONE PRECIOUS TO ME ALWAYS LEAVE ME BEHIND?!
WHY DO ALL THOSE WHO I LOVE ABANDON ME?!
I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT BEHIND AGAIN!
NATALIE, CALM DOWN!
NO! WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU!
TYPESETTER GO ELAINE! CALM THIS CRAZY WOMEN DOWN!!
NATALIE!!
AH
NATALIE! WHAT'S WRONG?!
AH... AH
NATALIE!!!

MY CHEST HURTS
STO
AH AH
clatter clatter
WOMAN WOMAN
HELP ME
I CAN'T BREATHE


NATALIE
!!!!

WE BETTER CALL THE DOCTOR!
NATALIE
"M"
AH AH AHH
WAHHH
YES, PLEASE COME QUICKLY, MICHELE!
I DON'T KNOW! SHE SUDDENLY COLLAPSED!
YES YES THAT'S RIGHT
SHE SAID SHE FELT CHEST PAINS
YES, HER FACE WAS ASHEN, AND SHE WAS SHIVERING. SHE SEEMED TO BE IN A LOT OF PAIN.
SWEAT WAS POURING DOWN HER FACE.


IN THE BEDROOM!
SHE STILL HASN'T WOKEN!
WHERE'S NATALIE?!
PLEASE HELP NATALIE!
MR MICHELE, PLEASE COME! QUICKLY!
DON'T WORRY IF YOU CAN'T HELP HER I'LL CALL ANOTHER DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY
SO I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH CONFIDENCE IN IT
INTERNAL INJURIES AREN'T MY FIELD SPECIALTY

YOU SAID YOUR CHEST HURTS...AND YOU SUDDENLY COLLAPSED
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
NATALIE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
ARE YOU OKAY BEING UP?!
COLLAP-SED?
I
NO, I'M PERFECTLY FINE
THAT'S STRANGE...
DOES IT HURT ANYWHERE NATALIE?
I FEEL LIGHT-HEADED FOR SOME REASON.
I WONDER WHY.

LIM
ELAINE CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU ?
HMM ?
IT'S BETTER IF YOU GOT SOME REST
DON T WORRY, YOU LL BE FINE
IS IT OKAY IF I STAY BY HER SIDE ?
GO AHEAD
THAT'S GREAT THAT EVERYTHING'S OKAY
YES
HMM ?
OH MY

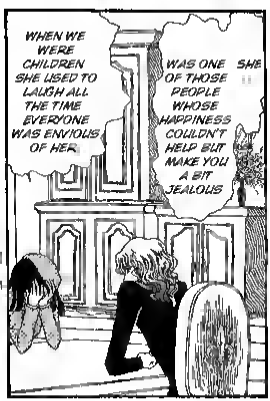
SUDDENLY HER FACE CONTORTED WITH PAIN
SHE WAS WORKED UP BUT STILL
MR. MICHELE
WELL IT'S NOT AS IF I DIDN'T SEE IT COMING,
BUT TO THINK IT WOULD COME TO THIS
MY LINE OF PROFESSION IS ACTUALLY IN PSYCHIATRY
IN OTHER WORDS I'M THE GUY YOU COME AND SEE FOR AILMENTS OF THE HEART

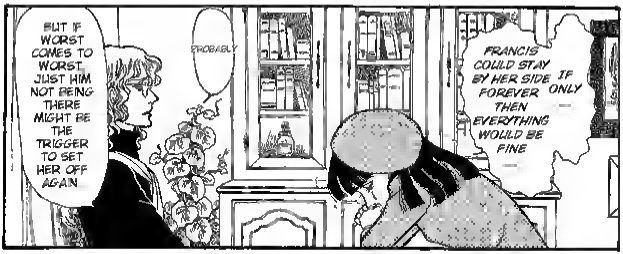
MOST PEOPLE SNAP OUT OF IT WITHIN HALF AN HOUR
WHEN HER DOUBTS AND EMOTIONS GET THE BEST OF HER, SHE COLLAPSES.
SHE SUFFERED AN ANXIETY ATTACK. IT'S A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM
ALMOST EVERY PATIENT WHO SUFFERS AN ANXIETY ATTACK EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES IN BREATHING ALMOST AS IF THEIR HEART IS ABOUT TO STOP
AND WHEN THEY DO, THEY OFTEN DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING UNTIL THEN.
AND THEY EXPERIENCE LIGHT-HEADEDNESS
OF COURSE DOCTORS RARELY EVER FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH THE HEART
WHEN THE ATTACK COMES, THEIR PULSE RISES DRAMATICALLY, THEIR HANDS AND LEGS SHAKE, AND THEIR FACES GO PALE
AS FOR WHY THEY HAVE THESE ATTACKS, IT'S BECAUSE IT'D BE MORE BENEFICIAL FOR THEM TO HAVE IT
OR WHEN THEY'RE ASKED TO DO SOMETHING THEY DON'T WANT TO, THEY GET A STOMACHACHE? THEY REALLY DO FEEL A SUDDEN PAIN
YOU KNOW HOW CHILDREN COMPLAIN OF HAVING A HEADACHE ON THE DAY BEFORE TEST?
WHAT?

IF THEY GET THE STOMACH ACHE, THEN THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL
SIMILARLY IN NATALIE'S CASE HAVING THE ANXIETY ATTACK ALLOWS HER TO ESCAPE THOSE DOUBTS THAT SHE'S FEELING
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HER HEALTH, AND EVEN IF WE DO A THOROUGH TESTING WE'D COME UP WITH NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
STILL, IF SHE SUFFERS THE ATTACK, SHE'LL BE IN EXTREME PAIN.
THE ONLY TREATMENT FOR IT IS A DOSE OF HORIZON, WHICH ACTS MORE LIKE A TRANQUILIZER
IF SHE GETS INTO THE SAME SITUATION AND NOW FRANCIS IS TRYING TO DO THE SAME THING
HER LOVER DISAPPEARED, AND NOW SHE'LL LIKELY COLLAPSE AGAIN
SHE'S FILLED WITH DOUBTS
WHEN THOSE DOUBTS BUILD UP TO A CERTAIN POINT, IT'LL TRIGGER AN ANXIETY ATTACK
IF WORST COMES TO WORST, SHE MIGHT END UP BECOMING A SCHIZOPHRENIC
IF IT COMES TO THAT, IT'LL BE EVEN TRICKIER TO TREAT

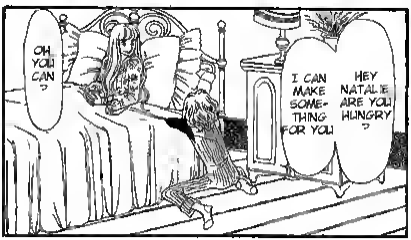
WHY DO ALL THOSE WHOM I LOVE ABANDON ME ;!
"NO! WHY DOES EVERYONE ALWAYS LEAVE ME ;!
I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT BEHIND AGAIN!"
LILI
SOB

BUT STILL
EVEN THEN
WELL YES SHE MAY HAVE BEEN A BIT SELFISH DUE TO THE WAY SHE WAS RAISED
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING TO HER.
SHE'S SOMEONE WHO DESERVED TO BE AS HAPPY AS ANYONE

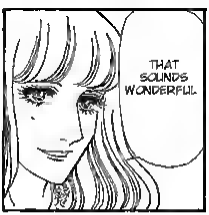

WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN SHE USED TO LAUGH ALL THE TIME EVERYONE WAS ENVIOUS OF HER.
SHE WAS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHOSE HAPPINESS COULDN'T HELP BUT MAKE YOU A BIT JEALOUS


BUT IF WORST COMES TO WORST, JUST HIM NOT BEING THERE MIGHT BE THE TRIGGER TO SET HER OFF AGAIN
PROBABLY
FRANCIS COULD STAY BY HER SIDE FOREVER
IF ONLY
THEN EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE

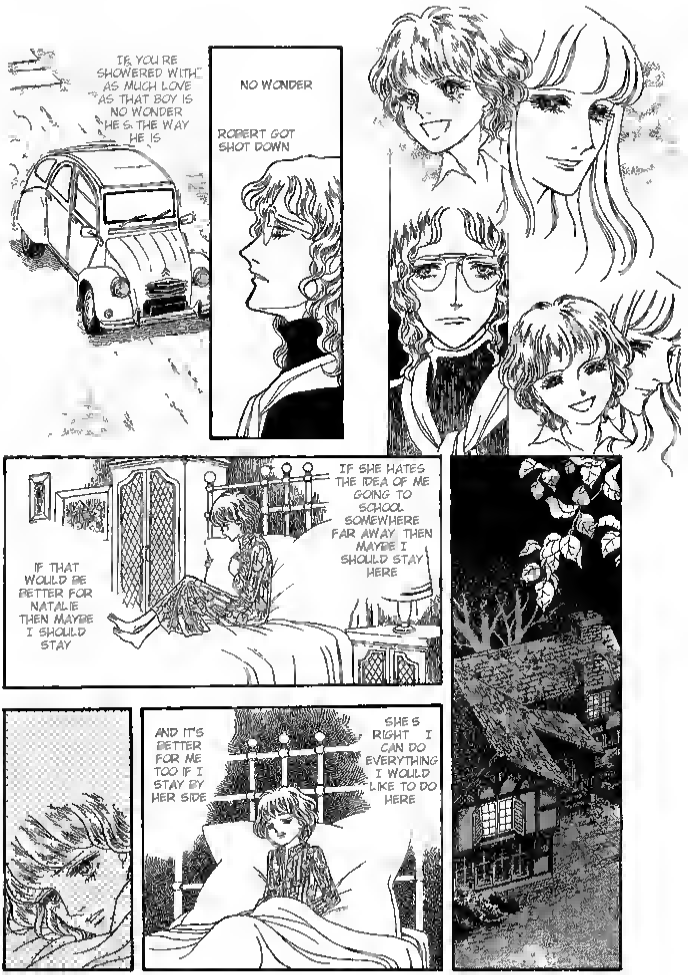
IT'S ALL UP TO HER
I'M ONLY BRINGING UP THE POSSIBILITIES NO ONE KNOWS WHAT MIGHT ACTUALLY HAPPEN
THEN AGAIN IT MIGHT NOT HAPPEN SHE MIGHT GET BETTER

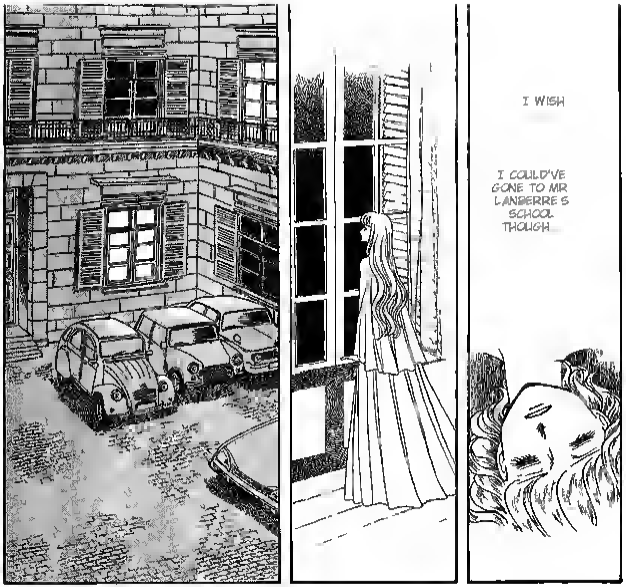

OH, YOU CAN?
I CAN MAKE SOMETHING FOR YOU
HEY NATALIE ARE YOU HUNGRY?

JUST KNOWING IT'S THERE IF YOU NEED IT WILL PROBABLY WORK WONDERS ON YOUR NERVES
I'LL LEAVE SOME MEDICINE JUST IN CASE


THAT SOUNDS WONDERFUL

YES! WANT ME TO MAKE YOU AN OMELETTE?

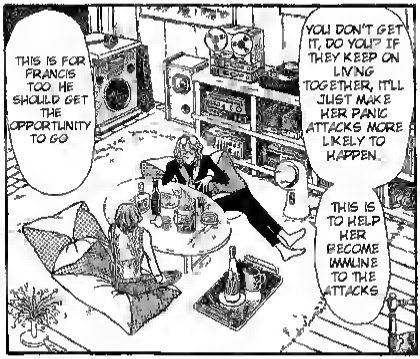

IF YOU'RE SHOWERED WITH AS MUCH LOVE AS THAT BOY IS NO WONDER HE'S THE WAY HE IS
NO WONDER
ROBERT GOT SHOT DOWN
IF SHE HATES THE IDEA OF ME GOING TO SCHOOL SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY THEN MAYBE I SHOULD STAY HERE
IF THAT WOULD BE BETTER FOR NATALIE THEN MAYBE I SHOULD STAY
AND IT'S BETTER FOR ME TOO IF I STAY BY HER SIDE
SHE'S RIGHT I CAN DO EVERYTHING I WOULD LIKE TO DO HERE

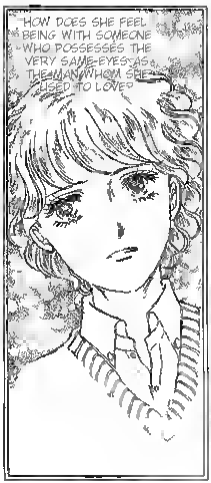

I WISH
I COULD'VE GONE TO MR LANDERRE'S SCHOOL THOUGH...

DAMNIT!
UGH...

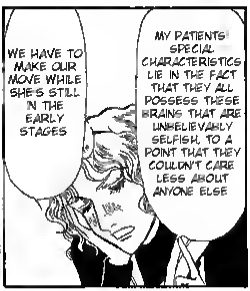
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'M A HIGHLY QUALIFIED DOCTOR WITH A PHD THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
SHUT UP!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A DOCTOR?!

YOU SPOUT ALL THAT STUFF, BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN CURE A CASE OF NEUROSIS!
IF IT'S SIMPLY DIAGNOSING SOMEONE WITH AN ILLNESS ANY IDIOT'S CAPABLE OF DOING THAT!
I'm the dream of the
SLAM! SLAM
I DON'T RUN A HOSPITAL BECAUSE IT'D BE TOO MUCH FRIGGIN' WORK, BUT I'M PRACTICALLY A CHIEF PHYSICIAN-RANKED TOP DOG WHO GETS RESPECT AT THE TOP HOSPITALS YOU KNOW
WHEN I GRADUATED FROM GRADUATE SCHOOL THEY WERE PRACTICALLY IN TEARS TRYING TO FIND A WAY FOR ME TO KEEP WORKING THERE!
IT'S NOT AS IF WE CAN SIMPLY CONTROL WHAT THE PATIENTS THINK.
IT'S A VERY DELICATE PROCEDURE
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO EASY BUT UNLIKE THE OTHER MEDICAL FIELDS PSYCHIATRY INVOLVES HAVING TO CURE SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE SEEN TO THE NAKED EYE.
HOW?
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS GET TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM, AND STOP IT FROM BEING A PROBLEM ANY LONGER.
BUT INSTEAD THEY'D BECOME UNFEELING VEGETABLES OF A HUMAN BEING.
WELL SURE IF WE MESS WITH THEIR NERVES THEY WOULDN'T HAVE PANIC ATTACKS ANYMORE
Y-YOU IDIOT! IT'LL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE IF I DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
YOU HAVE TO TRY TO CONVINCE HER TO LET HIM
GET FRANCIS LIVING IN A DORM


YOU! DON'T GET IT, DO YOU!? IF THEY KEEP ON LIVING TOGETHER, IT'LL JUST MAKE HER PANIC ATTACKS MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN.
THIS IS FOR FRANCIS TOO. HE SHOULD GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO
THIS IS TO HELP HER BECOME IMMUNE TO THE ATTACKS


HOW DOES SHE FEEL BEING WITH SOMEONE WHO POSSESSES THE VERY SAME EYES AS THE MAN WHOM SHE USED TO LOVE?

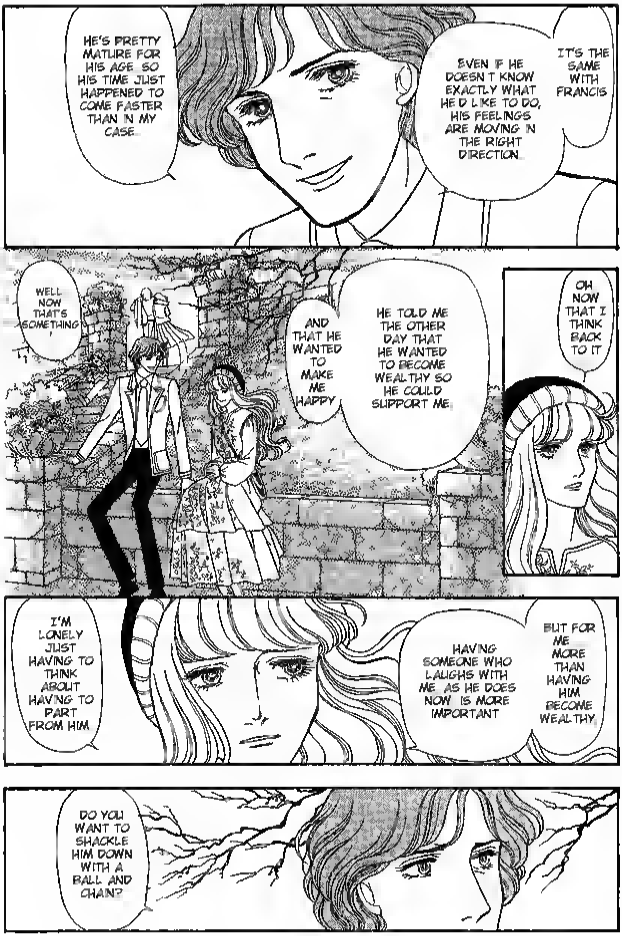
THAT FRANCIS HAS NOT EVEN AN INKLING OF A THOUGHT OF LEAVING HER?
HE ALWAYS ONLY HAS EYES ON HER
I WONDER IF HIS FATHER GAZED AT HER IN THE SAME WAY?


WE HAVE TO MAKE OUR MOVE WHILE SHE'S STILL IN THE EARLY STAGES
MY PATIENTS' SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS LIE IN THE FACT THAT THEY ALL POSSESS THESE BRAINS THAT ARE UNBELIEVABLY SELFISH, TO A POINT THAT THEY COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ANYONE ELSE

WE HAVE TO SAVE HER FROM THE FEAR OF BEING LEFT BEHIND.

AND YET WHY IS SHE SO FULL OF DOUBTS ?
EVERYONE INCLUDING ELAINE AND I CARE ABOUT HER
IF SHE'LL JUST STAY AS SHE IS NOW THEN I'D BE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING
BEFORE, SHE USED TO HAVE THIS EXPRESSIONLESS LOOK ON HER FACE, ALMOST AS IF SHE WASN'T ALIVE IT WAS HARD TO SEE HER LIKE THAT.
LATELY SHE'S BEEN LAUGHING A LOT.
EVEN IF IT MEANS SHE'LL NEVER BE WITH YOU?
WELL THAT'S A BIT HARSH
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE
I...
YOU'RE NEVER ONE TO GIVE UP ARE YOU?

I WANTED TO FLY WHEN I WAS 14
"FLY"?
IT'S A NATURAL STAGE THAT EVERY MALE GOES THROUGH.
HE'S TRYING TO FLY.
WHY HE SUDDENLY STARTED SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT.
CAN KIND OF UNDERSTAND
MY FATHER WAS A STUBBORN PRIEST AND HE HAD HIS MIND SET ON ENROLLING ME INTO A PRIESTHOOD SCHOOL.
BUT I LOVED READING BOOKS AND I WANTED TO MAKE THEM.
SO I STUDIED PUBLISHING SECRETLY BEHIND MY FATHER'S BACK AND I ENROLLED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MY CHOICE
LIKE ELAINE DURING MY COLLEGE YEARS I WORKED PART-TIME AT A PUBLISHING FIRM
MY FATHER FINALLY GAVE IN AND HE EVEN HELPED ME GET MY OWN PUBLISHING COMPANY UP AND RUNNING
HOW LOVELY THAT YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WANTED TO BE EVEN BACK THEN

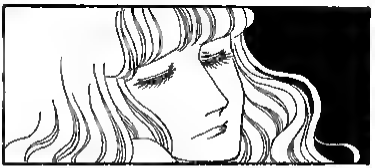

HE'S PRETTY MATURE FOR HIS AGE. SO HIS TIME JUST HAPPENED TO COME FASTER THAN N MY CASE.
EVEN IF HE DOESN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE'D LIKE TO DO, HIS FEELINGS ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
IT'S THE SAME WITH FRANCIS
OH NOW THAT I THINK BACK TO IT
HE TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY THAT HE WANTED TO BECOME WEALTHY SO HE COULD SUPPORT ME.
AND THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE ME HAPPY
WELL NOW THAT'S SOMETHING.
I'M LONELY JUST HAVING TO THINK ABOUT HAVING TO PART FROM HIM.
HAVING SOMEONE WHO LAUGHS WITH ME AS HE DOES NOW IS MORE IMPORTANT
BUT FOR ME MORE THAN HAVING HIM BECOME WEALTHY.
DO YOU WANT TO SHACKLE HIM DOWN WITH A BALL AND CHAIN?

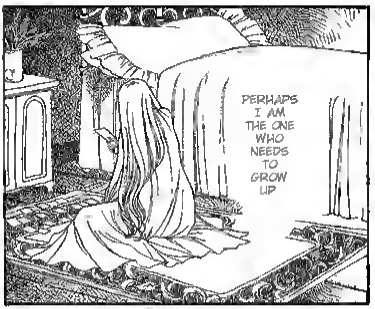
WHAT...?
THERE'S NO MEANING IN TYING HIM DOWN TO BE BY YOUR SIDE...
IF YOU DO HE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO BE CLOSER TO YOU
DON'T YOU KNOW? HE IS TRYING TO CLIMB UP TO WHERE YOU ARE
RATHER THAN ALWAYS HAVING TO RELY ON YOUR KINDNESS HE CHOSE THE PATH TO BECOME YOUR KNIGHT
HE'S STILL AN 11 YEAR OLD BOY, AND YET, HE'S ALREADY DECIDED ON SUCH THINGS
HE'S NOT TRYING TO FART FROM YOU. HE'S TRYING TO BECOME CLOSER TO YOU
PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND HIM
IS IT MY-SELFISH-NESS THAT WANTS HIM TO STAY WITH ME?
IT'S JUST THAT THE WAY YOU SHOW YOUR LOVE IS DIFFERENT FROM HIS

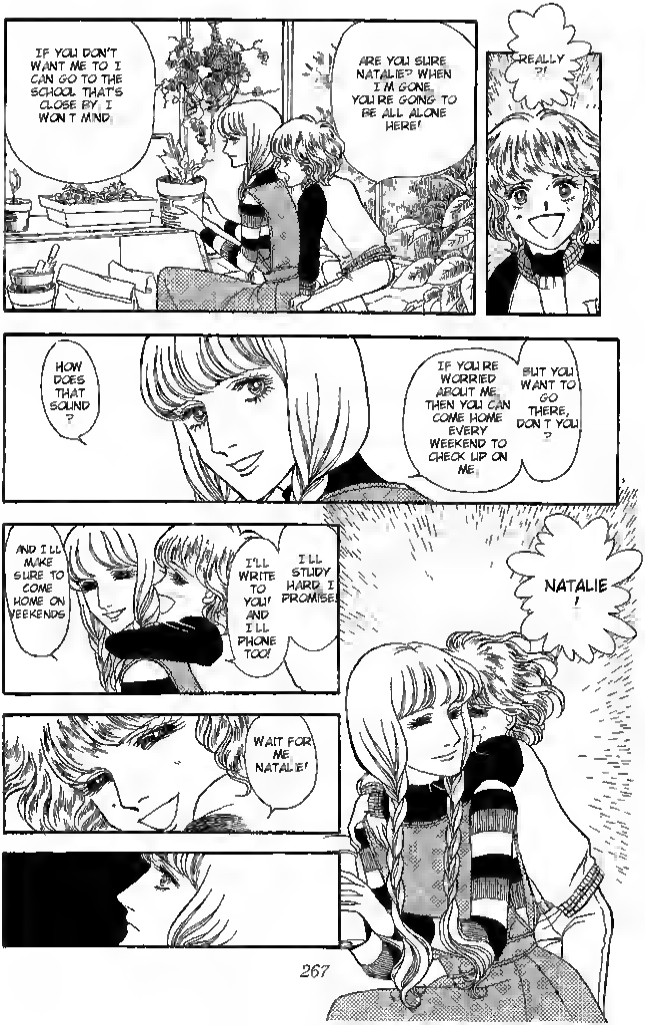
WHILE THE GIRL IS OFF HAVING DREAMS OF BECOMING A BEAMING BRIDE,

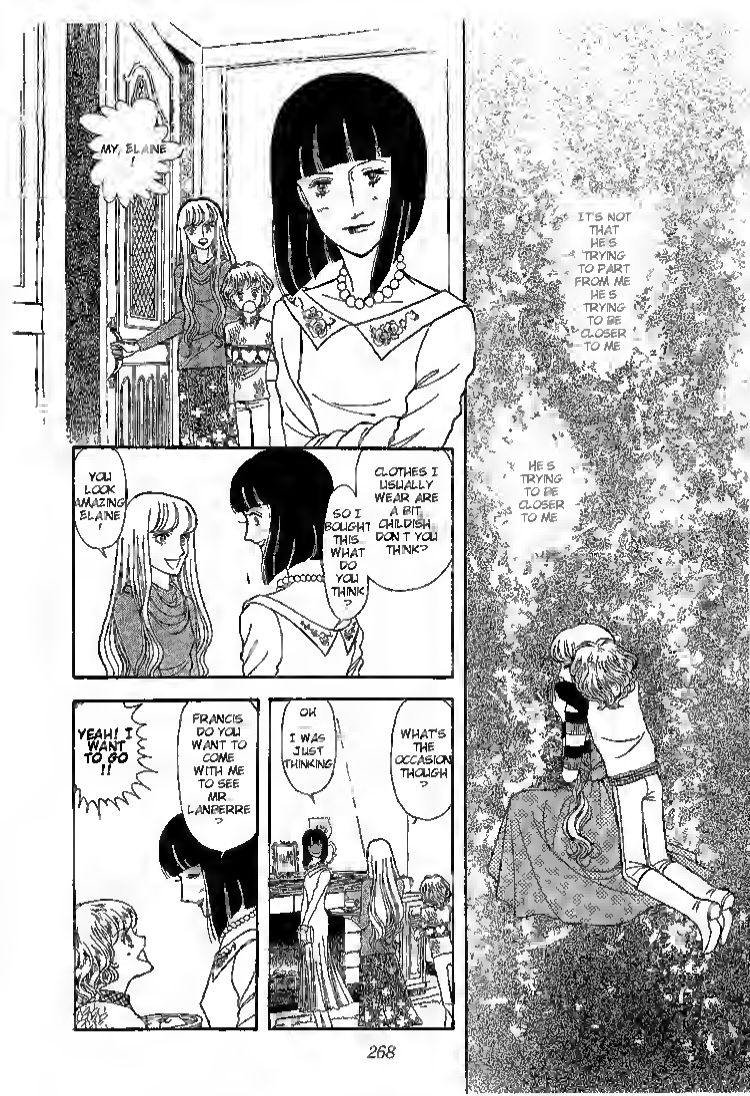
MY SMALL FRANCIS
THE BOY WHO HELD ONTO THE ENDS OF MY SKIRT

IS THE BOY THINKING OF FLYING?



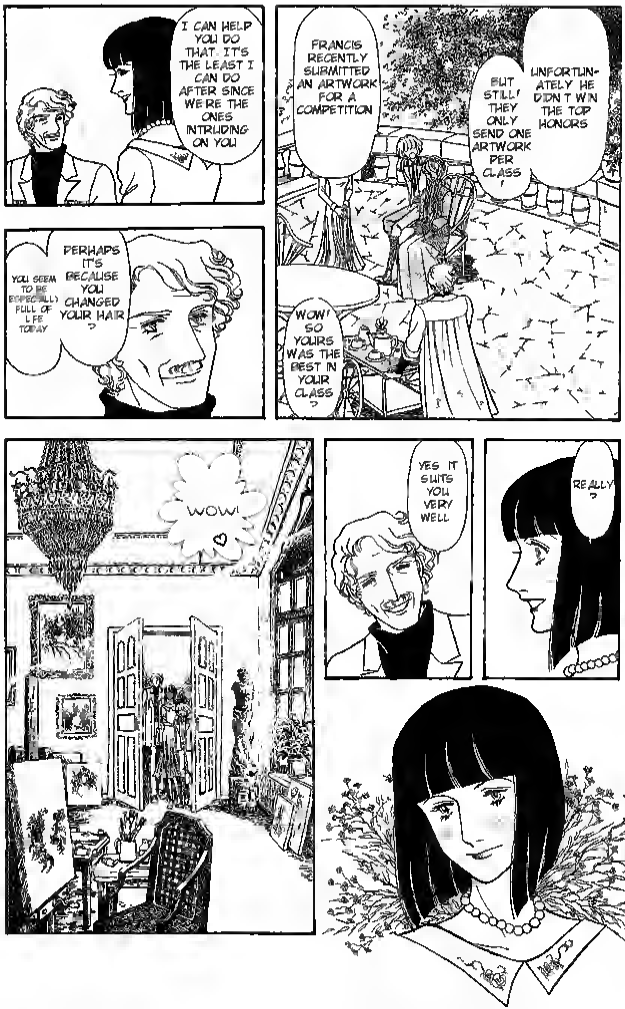

PERHAPS I AM THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO GROW UP


IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO I CAN GO TO THE SCHOOL THAT'S CLOSE BY. I WON'T MIND.
ARE YOU SURE NATALIE? WHEN I'M GONE YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL ALONE HERE!
REALLY ?!
HOW DOES THAT SOUND ?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME, THEN YOU CAN COME HOME EVERY WEEKEND TO CHECK UP ON ME.
BUT YOU WANT TO GO THERE, DON'T YOU ?
AND I'LL MAKE SURE TO COME HOME ON WEEKENDS
I'LL WRITE TO YOU! AND I'LL PHONE TOO!
I'LL STUDY HARD. I PROMISE!
NATALIE !
WAIT FOR ME NATALIE!


MY, ELAINE!
YOU LOOK AMAZING ELAINE!
SO I BOUGHT THIS. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
CLOTHES I USUALLY WEAR ARE A BIT CHILDISH DON'T YOU THINK?
YEAH! I WANT TO GO!!
FRANCIS DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME TO SEE MR. LANBERRE?
OH I WAS JUST THINKING
WHAT'S THE OCCASION THOUGH?
IT'S NOT THAT HE'S TRYING TO PART FROM ME HE'S TRYING TO BE CLOSER TO ME
HE'S TRYING TO BE CLOSER TO ME

I'D REALLY LIKE TO GO! CAN I NATALIE ?
THEN YOU BETTER GET READY
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME NOW? YOU'VE ALREADY PHONED HIM, HAVEN'T YOU?
I WONDER IF THAT WAS OKAY ?
TO BE HONEST I PHONED HIM ASKING IF I COULD COME AND ASK A FEW QUESTIONS SINCE FRANCIS WILL BE ENROLLING THERE
YES?
HEY NATALIE ?
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN FEELING LATELY ?
OH FINE WHY DO YOU ASK ?
YOU FAINTED THE OTHER DAY SO I'VE BEEN WORRIED
OH I WAS JUST PROBABLY FEELING ANAEMIC YOU'RE SUCH A WORRYWART ELAINE
I'M SO RELIEVED...

I DON'T WANT HER TO HAVE TO SUFFER
ELAINE I WANT YOU TO FIND A WONDERFUL LOVE
PLEASE DON'T SUFFER AS I DID
YOU WERE ALWAYS THERE TO HELP ME
WELL OF COURSE SHE'S GOING TO SEE THE PERSON SHE LOVES!
HEY NATALIE ELAINE LOOKS REALLY EXCITED!
HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE IF THAT REALLY HAPPENED
YOU'RE RIGHT
I'D BE GREAT IF MR LANPERRE FALLS FOR HER TOO!
WE'RE SO FAR FROM THE CITY THAT WE RARELY GET VISITORS
YOU'VE THE FIRST VISITORS WE'VE SEEN IN A WHILE IT CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION
WELL, WELL WELCOME!
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
I'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT FRANCIS
I'M SORRY TO GREET YOU DRESSED LIKE THIS


I CAN HELP YOU DO THAT. IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO AFTER SINCE WE'RE THE ONES INTRUDING ON YOU
FRANCIS RECENTLY SUBMITTED AN ARTWORK FOR A COMPETITION
UNFORTUNATELY HE DIDN'T WIN THE TOP HONORS
BUT STILL! THEY ONLY SEND ONE ARTWORK PER CLASS
WOW! SO YOURS WAS THE BEST IN YOUR CLASS?
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE YOU CHANGED YOUR HAIR?
YOU SEEM TO BE ESPECIALLY FULL OF LIFE TODAY
WOW!
YES IT SUITS YOU VERY WELL
REALLY?

WOW! SO MANY PAINTINGS OF THE SAME PERSON!
WHAT IMMEDIATELY AUGHT MY EYE... WERE THE NUMEROUS PAINTINGS OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
BLACK ONYX EYES AND CHESTNUT HAIR
HEALTHY-LOOKING SKIN WITH A HINT OF A TAN
EACH PAINTING WAS CAREFULLY DONE
EACH REFLECTED THE DEPTH OF HIS LOVE FOR THIS PERSON
I WONDER IF SHE'S THE REASON BEHIND WHY HE HASN'T MARRIED?
DOES HE STILL LOVE HER?
WILL IT BE EVER POSSIBLE FOR ME TO LIVE IN YOUR HEART AS SHE DOES?
WELL I'M NOT QUITE SURE ABOUT THAT... YOU COULD JUST CALL IT AN OLD MAN'S SENTIMENT
SHE MUST BE VERY BLESSED TO HAVE SO MANY PAINTINGS DEDICATED TO HER
I'M ENVIOUS OF WHOEVER WAS PAINTED THIS WAY

VAUGHN ROZE. THE NAME OF THIS SCHOOL WAS NAMED BY THE FIRST PRINCIPLE HERE
IT MEANS "A ROSE-COLORED ACADEMY"
BUT, THE INSIDE STORY HAS IT THAT HE WAS QUITE A LOVER OF WINE, AND HE WAS ESPECIALLY FOND OF A WINE CALLED VAUGNE ROZE
IT'S SAID THAT WHETHER THIS SCHOOL IS SEEN AS AN ACADEMY FOR THE DRUNK OR THE ROSE-COLORED ACADEMY, IS UP TO THE STUDENTS
I WONDER WHICH INTERPRETATION YOU WILL TAKE UP ?
I WANT TO CAPTURE HER IN MY PAINTINGS AS HE DID THAT LADY
I WANT TO TRY TO PAINT HER

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO ENJOY YOUR LIVES HERE AT VALIN ROZE FOR THESE NEXT 7 YEARS
AND SO,
IT IS MY SINCERE WISH THAT YOU WILL FIND YOUR EXPERIENCE AT VAUGHN ROZE ONE THAT WILL FILL YOU WITH PRIDE.
AND TO GROW UP INTO INDEPENDENT YOUNG ADULTS
OUR GOALS HERE AT VAUGHN ROZE ARE TO HAVE EACH AND EVERY STUDENT FULFILL THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.
A NEW SCHOOL
NEW TEACHERS
AND THE STUDENTS WHO I'LL BE SPENDING THE NEXT 7 YEARS WITH

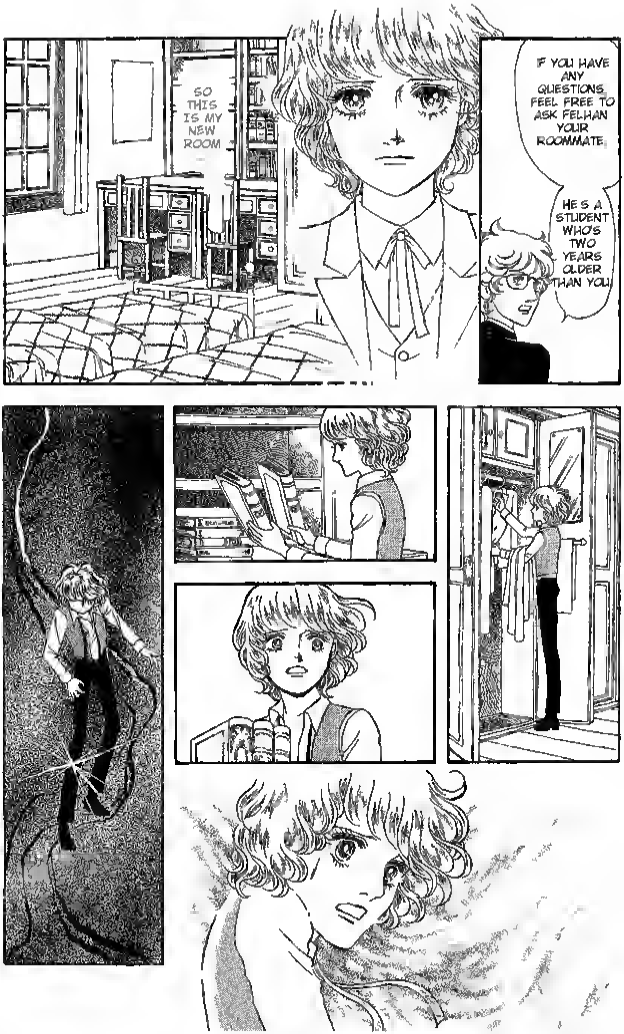
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO ENJOY OUR LIVES HERE AT VAUGHN ROZE FOR THESE NEXT 7 YEARS
AND SO
IT IS MY SINCERE WISH THAT YOU WILL FIND YOUR EXPERIENCE AT VAUGHN ROZE ONE THAT WILL FILL YOU WITH PRIDE.
AND TO GROW UP INTO INDEPENDENT YOUNG ADULTS
OUR GOALS HERE AT VAUGHN ROZE ARE TO HAVE EACH AND EVERY STUDENT FULFILL THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.
A NEW SCHOOL
NEW TEACHERS
AND THE STUDENTS WHO I'LL BE SPENDING THE NEXT 7 YEARS WITH

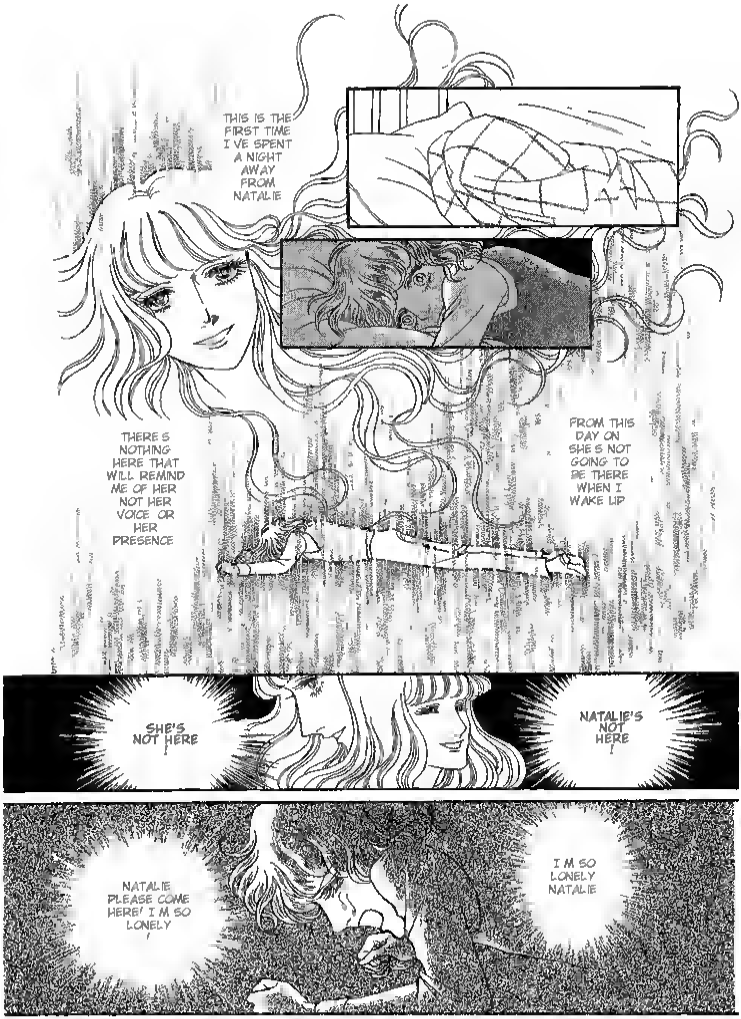
NATALIE
THIS IS THE SCHOOL THAT I CHOSE TO GO TO
MY NEW LIFE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
I DON'T WANT TO REGRET ANY OF THIS
I THOUGHT IT WAS LOVELY AND THE TEACHERS HERE ARE VERY NICE AS WELL
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE SCHOOL?
ALL THOSE WHO'RE STAYING AT THE DORMS--- GATHER AROUND BECAUSE WE'LL BE ASSIGNING ROOMS!
PARENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO INTO THE DORMS SO PLEASE SAY YOUR GOODBYES HERE
I'M SURE YOU WILL BE.
NATALIE
I PROMISE YOU I'LL BE THE BEST STUDENT HERE
THANK YOU

Y-YEAH
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. COME BACK ON WEEKENDS WON'T YOU?
NATALIE!
BE WELL NATALIE!
MAKE SURE TO EAT, OKAY?

Y-YES
YES, ... I WILL.
ANYTHING HAPPENS... MAKE SURE TO PHONE ME. OKAY? THAT'S A PROMISE!
I'LL WRITE YOU LETTERS AND I'LL MAKE SURE TO COME HOME ON THE WEEKENDS.
IF ONLY I COULD TAKE YOU BACK HOME WITH ME...
I DON'T WANT TO LET GO
I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU GO, FRANCIS
YOU THERE!
COME ON ALREADY!
I'LL BE GOING NOW, NATALIE.

IT'S NOT AS IF I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN
IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE PARTING
FRANCIS!!
HE'S TRYING TO BECOME CLOSER TO ME ...
THANK YOU
YOUR LUGGAGE IS ALREADY IN YOUR ROOM
THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM FROM NOW ON. DINNER WILL BE AT 6. YOU'RE FREE TO DO AS YOU LIKE UNTIL THEN


SO THIS IS MY NEW ROOM
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO ASK FELHAN YOUR ROOMMATE.
HE'S A STUDENT WHO'S TWO YEARS OLDER THAN YOU.


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SPENT A NIGHT AWAY FROM NATALIE
THERE'S NOTHING HERE THAT WILL REMIND ME OF HER NOT HER VOICE OR HER PRESENCE
FROM THIS DAY ON SHE'S NOT GOING TO BE THERE WHEN I WAKE UP
SHE'S NOT HERE!
NATALIE'S NOT HERE!
NATALIE PLEASE COME HERE! I'M SO LONELY!
I'M SO LONELY NATALIE

SWISH
WHA?
LOOK WHAT I FOUND
YOU'RE HOW CRYING CUTE. BCAUSE YOU MISS YOUR MOMMY?
CHUCKLES
WELL, ONE THING'S FOR SURE. I'M NOT YOUR BABYSITTER.
CHUCKLES
W-WHO ARE YOU?!

Shoujo Scans
Credits
Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
Toxicstream
Cleaner
Az
Typesetter
Oceansportrait
QCer
Vally
Chapter 7 part 1
Suna no Shiro

Ishouju
Scans
WHOA!
GRR
CLOSE CALL NEXT TIME YOU NEED TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP FORWARD
WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM ?!
OH DON'T GET SO UPSET YOU DON'T LOOK THE TYPE TO BE QUICK TO FIGHT

HOW DID YOU EXPECT ME TO KNOCK!
DON'T YOU EVEN REALIZE HOW RUDE YOU'RE BEING?!
YOU COME INTO MY ROOM WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, AND THAT'S THE KIND OF ATTITUDE YOU TAKE TOWARDS ME?
OH WELL EXCU-SEEEEE ME.
IT WAS JUST THAT YOU SEEMED TO BE IGNORING THE 6 O'CLOCK CHIME
IF YOU MISS OUT ON DINNER, ALL YOU'RE GOING TO GET IS WATER UNTIL MORNING.
THE CAFETERIA'S THE FURTHEST ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR
THOSE WHO ARE LATE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO WITHOUT...
Yes
I'm sorry
YOUR NAME'S FRANCIS, RIGHT?
IF YOU WANT TO BE A GOOD STUDENT HERE THEN YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE LIKES OF ME
I'M FELIXIA CALERU
THIS IS YOUR ROOM, BUT IT'S MINE AS WELL
CLICK

AND ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'M GOING TO GOBBLE YOU UP!
I'M THE SPAWN OF THE DEVIL!
TENSE
TRUTH IS
Huh ?
A-HAHA
I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING YOUR ROOMMATE, MAMA'S BOY
YOUR REACTION'S HILARIOUS!

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO TO THE CAFETERIA
I WAS JUST IN THE PROCESS OF GATHERING TOGETHER ALL THE NAMES OF THE NEW STUDENTS
WELL WELL IF IT ISN'T THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE OUT HERE WHEN THE CHIMES HAVE RUNG
AS LONG AS YOU PLAN ON STAYING HERE I WISH YOU WOULD CONSIDER MORE HOW YOUR ACTIONS AFFECT THE WHOLE STUDENT BODY.
FELHAN, YOU'VE GOT DINNER DUTIES THIS WEEK DON'T YOU? IF YOU DON'T ABIDE BY THE SCHOOL RULES, THE YOUNGER STUDENTS WON'T EITHER
JUST SAY THAT YOU DON'T WANT ME HERE AND THAT YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE
AND ANYWAY WHY DON'T YOU BE MORE STRAIGHT UP?
I HATE THAT KIND OF THINKING
Um...

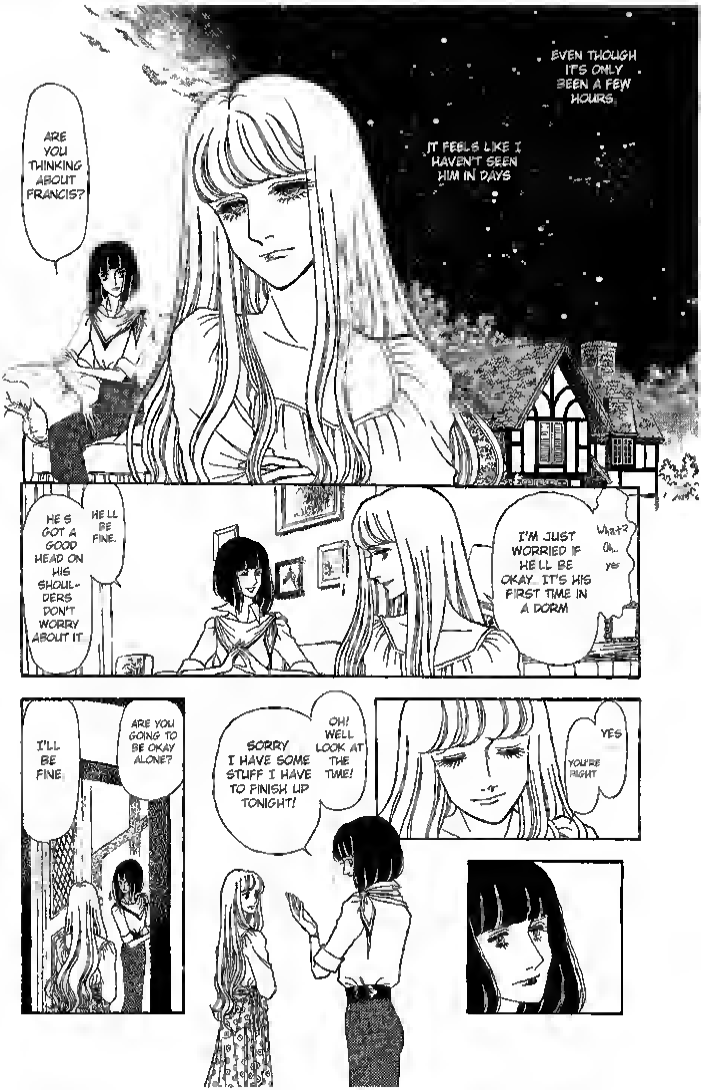
UM... WILL MR. LANBERRE BE THERE AS WELL?
THANK YOU
I'M HEADING THERE AS WELL SO I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY.
EVERYONE SHOULD BE THERE ALREADY.
NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T MEAN TO EAVES-DROP
YES
I ENROLLED HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO ATTEND HIS CLASS
WHY ARE YOU AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS?
HE ONLY COMES TO THE ACADEMY TWICE A WEEK, BUT HE SHOULD BE THERE TODAY.
OH, FROM ROOM 325? YOU'RE ROOM-MATES WITH FELHAN?
YES
I'M FRANCIS DEAUBERGE.
I'M THE DORM MANAGER OF THIS WING
I'M SORRY, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET MY NAME IS EDWIN SCHNEIDER
HIS CLASSES ARE VERY INTERESTING. ALMOST AS IF YOU'RE BEING TAUGHT BY A FRIEND RATHER THAN A TEACHER
HE IS A GOOD TEACHER

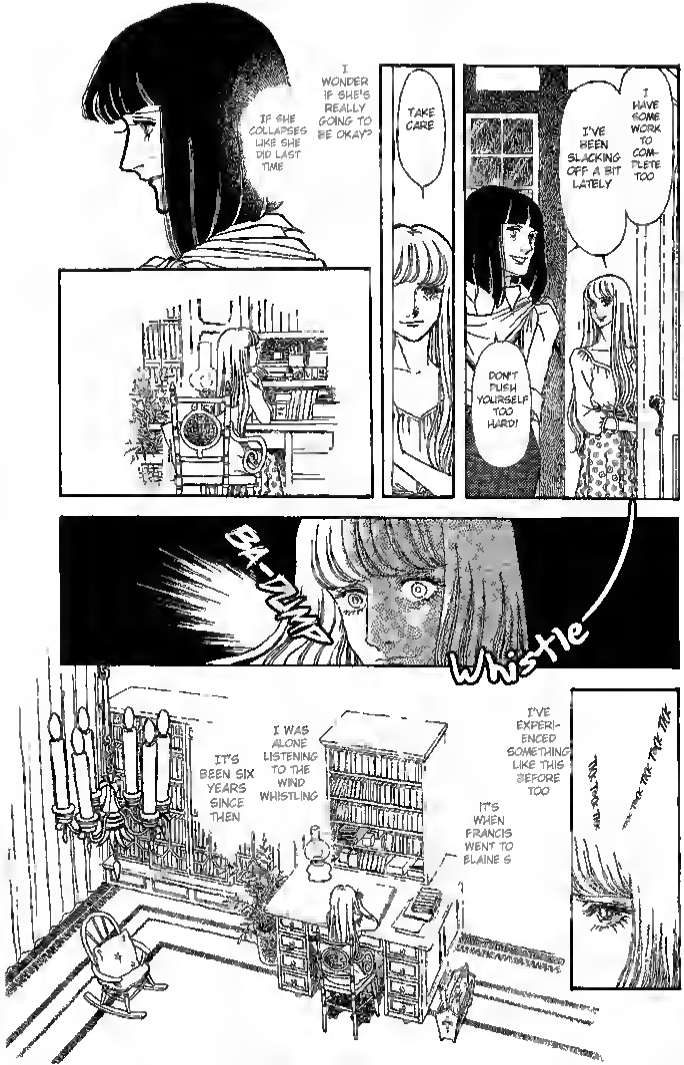
CLICK
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO SAY THIS,
BUT YOU'RE BETTER OFF BEING WARY OF FELHAN
HE HAS— A BIT OF A WILD STREAK TO HIM
IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO KEEP WATCH AND MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT IN HIS ANTICS
What ...?
IN THE CAFETERIA MAKE SURE TO KEEP CONVERSATION TO A MINIMUM.
NEWLY ENROLLED STUDENTS ARE SEATED ON THE FAR RIGHT
THANKS!
HEY YOU KNOW EDWIN? THAT'S AWESOME!
HE'S A DORM MANAGER, EVEN THOUGH HE'S ONLY IN 4TH YEAR!
Ah!
HEY, YOU THERE! YOU CAN SIT HERE IF YOU'D LIKE!
OH NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HE WAS WEARING A RED NECKTIE
MY OLDER BROTHER'S IN THE HIGH SCHOOL WING OF THIS ACADEMY SO I KNOW ALOT ABOUT THIS PLACE
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME LIVING IN A DORM, ISN'T IT?

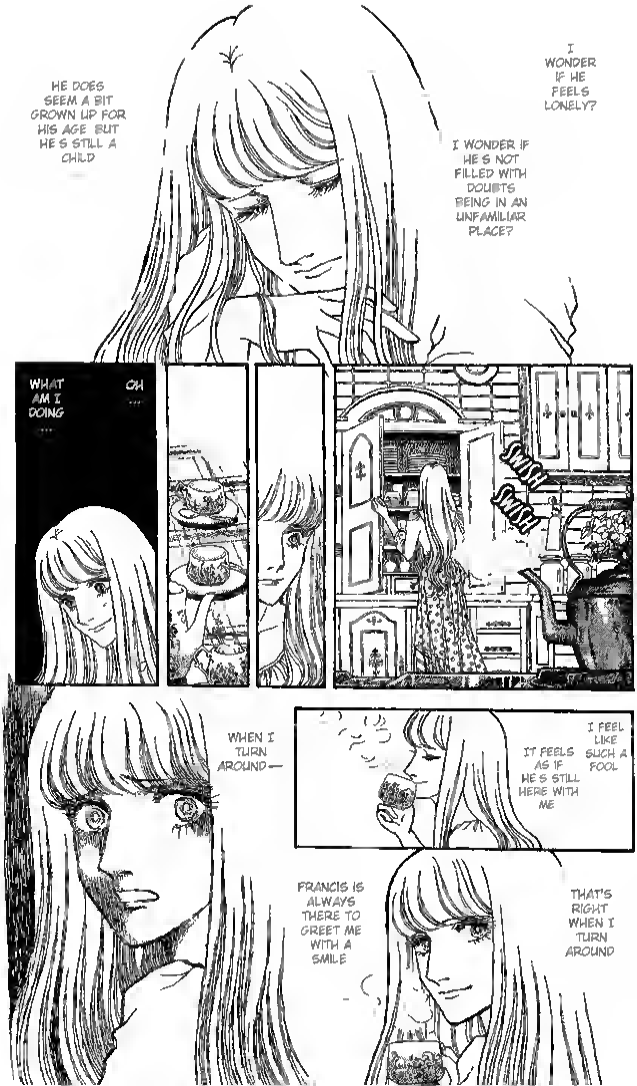
I'M FRANCIS DEALIBERGE. WE'RE PRACTICALLY NEIGHBORS I'M IN ROOM 325 NICE TO MEET YOU.
COME VISIT ME SOME-TIME
MY NAME'S REMI CLAUDE I'M IN ROOM 321.
YOU TWO THERE! KEEP CONVER-SATIONS TO A MINIMUM!
AND NOW WE'LL HAVE OUR DAILY PRAYERS
CLAD
MR LANBERRE!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE SEEING EACH OTHER MORE OFTEN NOW
I LOOK FORWARD TO TEACH-ING YOU.
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, FRANCIS
MR LANBERRE!
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT TOO!

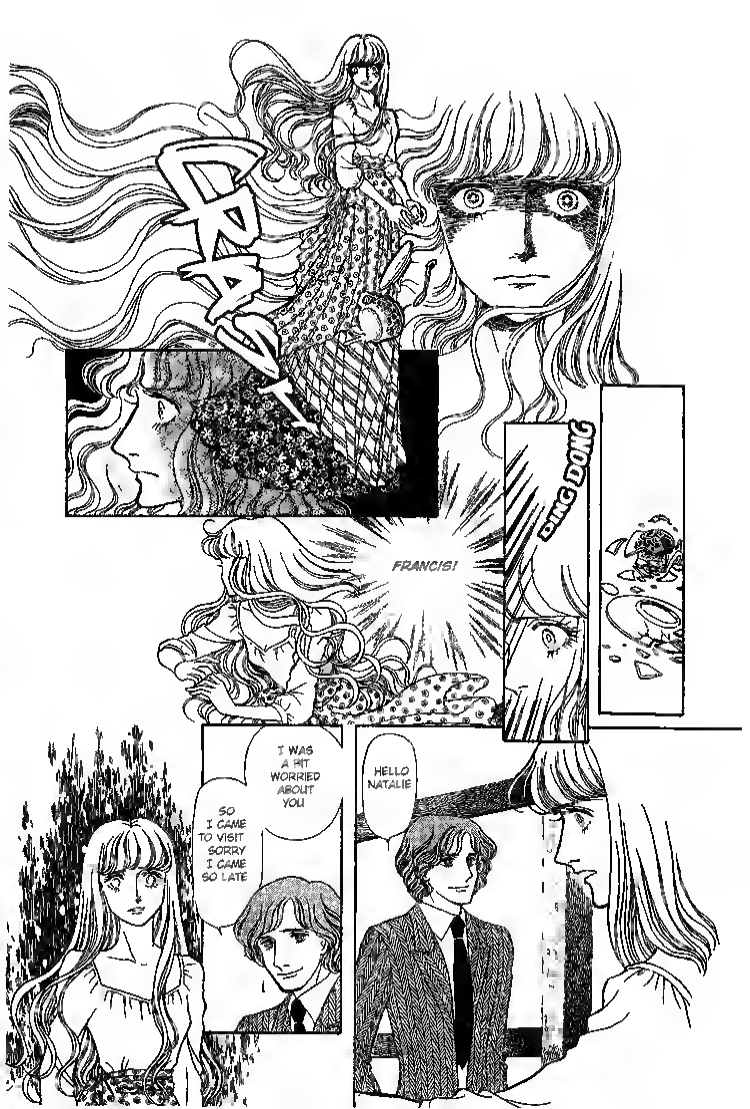
IN ORDER FOR YOU TO AVOID THIS, PLEASE TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION WHAT KIND OF IMPACT YOUR ACTIONS MIGHT HAVE ON OTHERS
AT OUR DORMITORY TO EMPHASIZE THE MEANING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE WITH OTHERS WE HAVE MADE IT SO THAT THE ROOMMATES OF THOSE WHO BREAK THE RULES WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE AS WELL
AH, YES
I HEARD EDWIN GIVING YOU SOME ADVICE?
IT SEEMS YOU'VE MADE A FRIEND ALREADY
HE'S LIKED BY EVERY-ONE
HE CAN BE A BIT TOO SERIOUS AT TIMES, BUT HE'S A WONDERFUL DORM MANAGER
AND THE FREE ROOM WILL CLOSE ONE HOUR BEFORE LIGHTS OUT
IN OTHER MATTERS THE STUDY ROOM AND THE LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN ONLY UNTIL DINNER TIME
AND IN SOME CASES, YOU WILL HAVE TO SPEND TIME IN A SEPARATE ROOM AS A FORM OF PUNISH-MENT
IN THE CASE YOU LEAVE WITHOUT PERMISSION YOU WILL HAVE YOUR PERMISSION SLIPS CONFISCATED
HAVE YOU ALREADY MET HIM? HE MAKES QUITE AN IMPRESSION, DOESN'T HE?
OH YEAH, ON ANOTHER NOTE, YOUR ROOMMATES' PRETTY COOL TOO!
I TOLD YOU HE WAS AWESOME DIDN'T I?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S ONLY TWO YEARS OLDER THAN US!
WOW
IF NOT, I PLAN ON ENDING IT HERE
ANY QUES-TIONS?
TAP

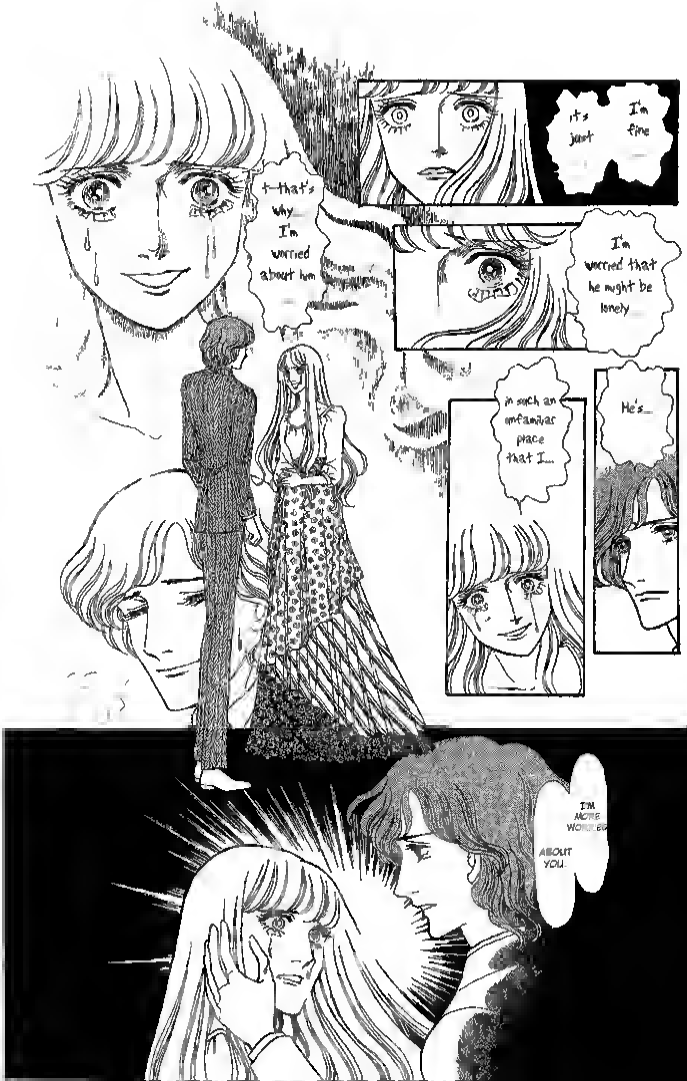
WELL CEE YA FRANCIS!
YOU BETTER KEEP A WATCH OUT TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN T HAPPEN TO YOU!
I HEARD HE S SENT A LOT OF HIS ROOMMATES TO THE T O ROOM BECAUSE OF IT!
AT THIS DORM, YOU HEARD HOW THEY PUNISH ROOMMATES TOO RIGHT?
I HEARD HE S A TROUBLE MAKER
I WONDER WHERE HE WENT?
HE'S NOT HERE
IT'S ALMOST LIGHTS OUT!
SO HE'S A TROUBLE MAKER, HUH?
OH SO THAT'S WHY HE ...
NATALIE
I WONDER WHAT SHE S DOING RIGHT NOW?
YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE TO EAT EVEN IF I'M NOT THERE
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE BECAUSE OF MY SELFISHNESS
HAVE YOU ALREADY EATEN DINNER?
I'M DOING FINE NATALIE THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE HERE


EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW HOURS
IT FEELS LIKE I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN DAYS
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT FRANCIS?
I'M JUST WORRIED IF HE'LL BE OKAY. IT'S HIS FIRST TIME IN A DORM
What? Oh... yes
HE'S GOT A GOOD HEAD ON HIS SHOULDERS DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
HE'LL BE FINE.
YES
YOU'RE RIGHT
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY ALONE?
I'LL BE FINE.
OH! WELL LOOK AT THE TIME!
SORRY I HAVE SOME STUFF I HAVE TO FINISH UP TONIGHT!

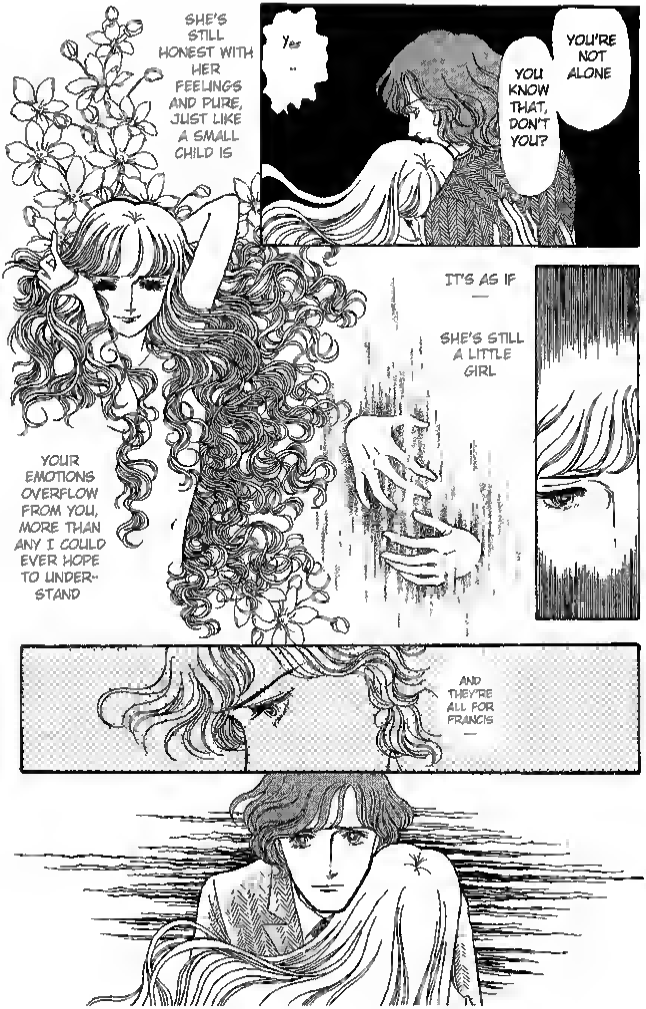

I WONDER IF SHE'S REALLY GOING TO BE OKAY?
IF SHE COLLAPSES LIKE SHE DID LAST TIME
TAKE CARE
I HAVE SOME WORK TO COMPLETE TOO
I'VE BEEN SLACKING OFF A BIT LATELY
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD!
SA-WWA
Whistle
IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE THEN
I WAS ALONE LISTENING TO THE WIND WHISTLING
I'VE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE TOO
IT'S WHEN FRANCIS WENT TO BLAINE'S
TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK


HE DOES SEEM A BIT GROWN UP FOR HIS AGE BUT HE'S STILL A CHILD
I WONDER IF HE FEELS LONELY?
I WONDER IF HE'S NOT FILLED WITH DOUBTS BEING IN AN UNFAMILIAR PLACE?
WHAT AM I DOING ....
OH ....
SMASH
SMASH
WHEN I TURN AROUND—
IT FEELS AS IF HE'S STILL HERE WITH ME
I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FOOL
FRANCIS IS ALWAYS THERE TO GREET ME WITH A SMILE
THAT'S RIGHT WHEN I TURN AROUND

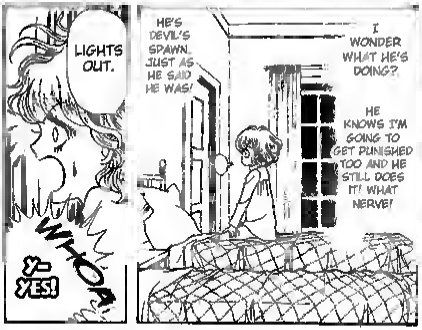

CRASH
DING DONG
FRANCIS!
HELLO NATALIE
I WAS A BIT WORRIED ABOUT YOU
SO I CAME TO VISIT SORRY I CAME SO LATE

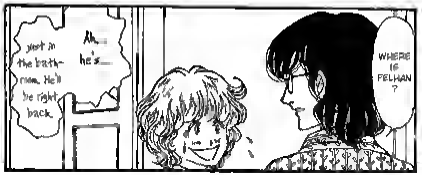

I'm fine
It's just
I'm worried that he might be lonely
He's...
in such an unfamiliar place that I...
I'm MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

I-I know... he's not here anymore
I-I thought I was prepared for this...
I-I'm sorry.. I..
b-but I.. just ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING
IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO JUST LET IT ALL OUT..
IT'S NATURAL FOR YOU TO FEEL SAD AND LONELY..
BUT DON'T THINK THAT YOU'RE ALL ALONE NOW
YOU HAVE ELAINE AND ME EVERYONE HERE CARES ABOUT YOU
ESPECIALLY FRANCIS HE LOVES YOU MORE THAN ANYONE


SHE'S STILL HONEST WITH HER FEELINGS AND PURE, JUST LIKE A SMALL CHILD IS
YOUR EMOTIONS OVERFLOW FROM YOU, MORE THAN ANY I COULD EVER HOPE TO UNDERSTAND
Yes ..
YOU'RE NOT ALONE
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
IT'S AS IF —
SHE'S STILL A LITTLE GIRL
AND THEY'RE ALL FOR FRANCIS —

HE HASN'T COME BACK.


LIGHTS OUT.
WHOA
YES!
HE'S DEVIL'S SPAWN. JUST AS HE SAID HE WAS!
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING?.
HE KNOWS I'M GOING TO GET PUNISHED TOO AND HE STILL DOES IT! WHAT NERVE!


WHERE IS FELHAN ?
Ah... he's...
yeah in the bathroom. He'll be right back.

I'M JUST WORRIED HE MIGHT GET YOU INVOLVED WITH ONE OF HIS ANTICS
YOU AREN'T GOING TO BE PUNISHED ALONGSIDE HIM FOR HIS ACTIONS
DON'T WORRY YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE UP EXCUSES.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN THE MIDDLE-SCHOOL DORM ANYWAY?
IT MUST BE TOUGH BEING THE DORM MANAGER
AND HE HAS TO KEEP AN EYE ON EVERY-ONE...
GOOD NIGHT, EDWIN I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS
WELL GOOD-NIGHT IT'LL BE AN EARLY MORNING FOR ALL OF US TOMOR-ROW
I GUESS THAT GUY DISAPPEARING OFF SOME-WHERE MUST BE SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS OFTEN.
WOW HE SAW RIGHT THROUGH MY LIE!
NATALIE—
NATALIE—
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A LITTLE CHILD, FRANCIS
CLICK
JUST BECAUSE HE'S OLDER DOESN'T GIVE HIM THE RIGHT TO CAUSE ME TROUBLE LIKE THIS!
WHEN THAT GUY COMES BACK I'LL GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND!
GRR THIS SUCKS! WHAT IF NATALIE HEARS ABOUT THIS ...?
AT THIS RATE WE'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO GET PUNISHED!
SIGH
SHHH
I'M EXHAUSTED

It's heavy
Ouuu it's so heavy
SHUT UP!!
is going on 212121
What the heck..
YOU NEED TO BE PUNISHED!
WHAT...?
Ah ah...
WHOA!
WHAT?
YOUR BED IS OVER THERE
WAKE UP FELIAN.
Nnn
N-NO WONDER
I FELT AS IF I WAS BEING CRUSHED TO DEATH!

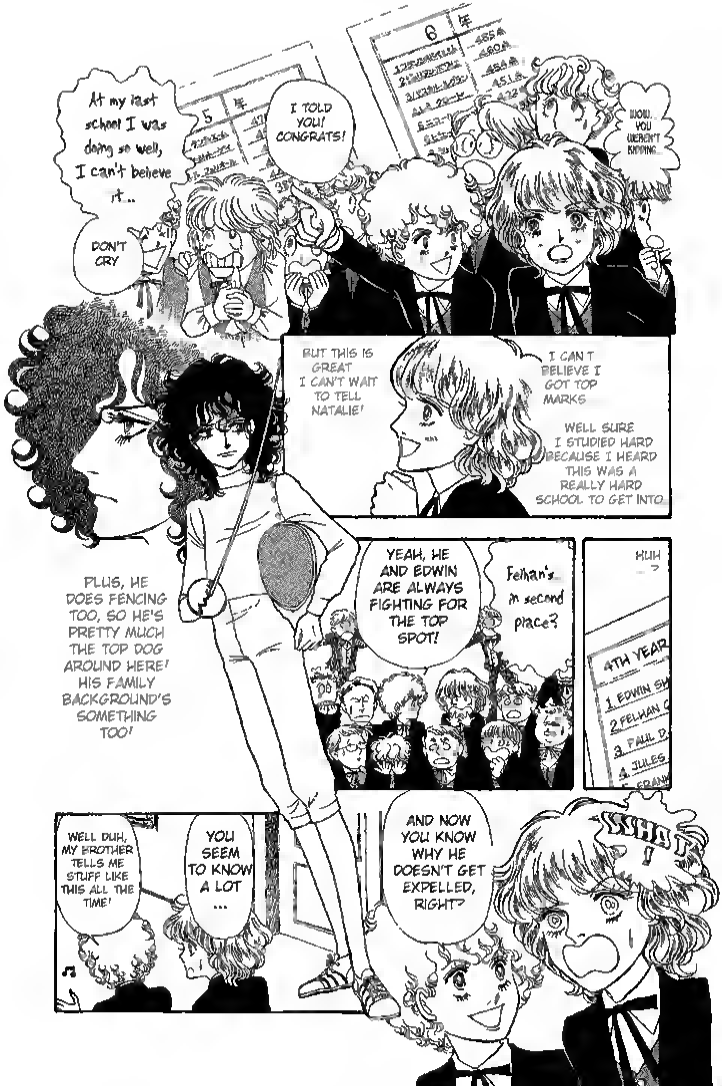
PASSED OUT
HE REEKS OF ALCOHOL
WHY HELLO THERE MOMMY'S BOY
IS YOUR PROBLEM?!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE, BUT WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE?!
YOU'VE CAUSED ME ENOUGH TROUBLE AS IT IS AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A WORD OF APOLOGY?!
THAT VOICE— IT'S FRANCIS!
IT'S COMING FROM THE ROOM IN THE FAR END?

JUST FORGET IT YOU REALLY ARE THE DEVIL'S SPAWN
YOU KNOW YOURSELF WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT
PISSED
HEY, NOT SO LOUD..
MY HEAD HURTS
MAYBE I WENT TOO FAR....
I THOUGHT FOR SURE HE WAS GOING TO TAKE A SWING AT ME...
W-WHAT?
W-what you're the one that——

I COULD HEAR YOU ALL THE WAY OVER FROM MY ROOM!
BUT SOMETHING MUCH MORE MALICIOUS HAPPENED!
It's nothing.
Err— nothing... sorry, I was just talking in my sleep.
THAT'S SOME NOISE YOU WERE MAKING! WHAT'S UP?
FRANCIS! FRANCIS!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
BANG BANG
WHOA!
HE SAID HE WAS TALKING IN HIS SLEEP! NOW GET BACK TO YOUR ROOMS!
SHUT UP ALREADY!
CLANK CLANK
Good night!

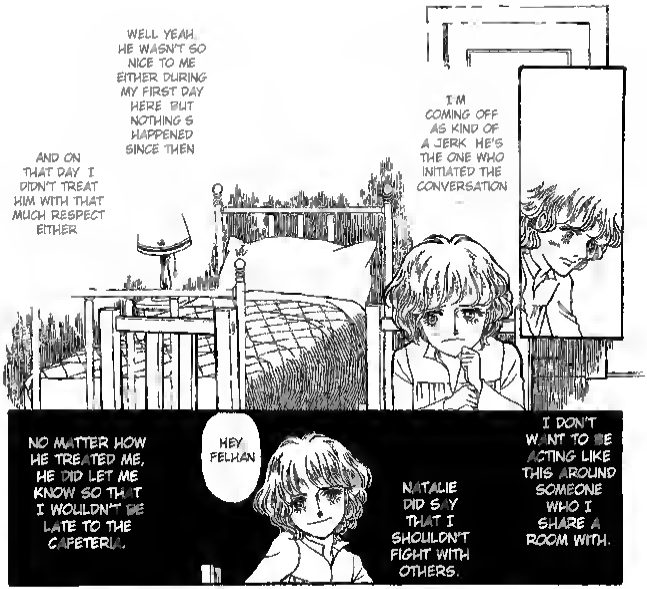
HEY, DID YOU HEAR? THAT NEW KID IN ROOM 325
WOW, HE SNAPPED AT FELHAN?!
YELLED AT FELHAN!
HIS NAME'S FRANCIS DEAU-BERGE, RIGHT?
HOW'D FELHAN REACT? DID HE DO LIKE NOTHING?
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD
FRANCIS!
HE'S GOT SOME GUTS!
LOOK, IT'S THAT KID!
YEAH, YEAH. I'VE HAD TO LISTEN TO THAT SINCE MORNING
YOU'RE AMAZ-ING, YOU KNOW THAT?
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT HIM ANYWAY?
THEY'RE ALL FELHAN THIS, FELHAN THAT
WHAT'S WITH THIS SCHOOL ANYWAY?

I'M SORRY I CAN'T GO HOME THIS WEEKEND BECAUSE OF THE WELCOMING PARTY FOR THE NEW STUDENTS ...
No, no. I haven't fought with him.
I DON'T REALLY LIKE MY ROOM-MATE THOUGH
YUP, NATALIE I'M DOING FINE
DON'T WORRY. IT'S BEEN GREAT.
LEPHON
☆ CLICK
UH-HUH
YES
YES I KNOW
UGH
GET A GRIP
WHAT TEST? OH, YOU MEAN THE KNOWLEDGE TEST WE HAD TO TAKE WHEN WE ENROLLED?
YEAH! AND YOU GOT THE TOP MARK! COME AND TAKE A LOOK!
What?! No way!
REALLY! AND IN FOURTH YEAR, EDWIN'S GOT THE TOP MARK!
FRANCIS! THEY'VE GOT THE MARKS UP FOR THE LAST EXAM!
BUT SHE'S ALL ALONE IN THAT HOUSE
I'M A BOY, AND I HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS HERE
SHE FEELS JUST AS LONELY AS I DO

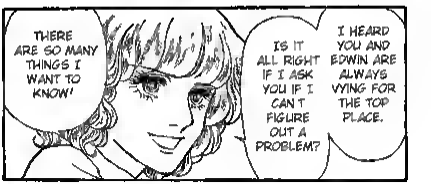

At my last school I was doing so well, I can't believe it..
DON'T CRY
I TOLD YOU! CONGRATS!
WOW.. YOU WEREN'T KIDDING
BUT THIS IS GREAT I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL NATALIE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT TOP MARKS
WELL SURE I STUDIED HARD BECAUSE I HEARD THIS WAS A REALLY HARD SCHOOL TO GET INTO.
PLUS, HE DOES FENCING TOO, SO HE'S PRETTY MUCH THE TOP DOG AROUND HERE! HIS FAMILY BACKGROUND'S SOMETHING TOO!
YEAH, HE AND EDWIN ARE ALWAYS FIGHTING FOR THE TOP SPOT!
Felhan's in second place?
HUH
4TH YEAR
1. EDWIN SH
2 FELHAN
3. PAUL D
4. JULES
WELL DUH, MY BROTHER TELLS ME STUFF LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME!
YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ...
AND NOW YOU KNOW WHY HE DOESN'T GET EXPELLED, RIGHT?
WHO?

HE COMES BACK RIGHT BEFORE LIGHTS OUT AND HITS THE SACK STRAIGHT AWAY
WE DON'T EVEN TALK
I HEARD FELHAN HASN'T TRIED TO PULL ANYTHING SINCE THAT DAY YOU YELLED AT HIM.
MAYBE HE LIKES YOU?
I'M SURPRISED HE'S LAYING LOW!
HAHA, AS IF
AH!
I JUST SAW THE MARKS POSTED
CONGRATULATIONS, FRANCIS
THE TEACHERS WERE ALL PRAISE WHEN IT CAME TO YOU
IT SEEMS YOU'RE VERY POPULAR AROUND HERE
WOW! THAT'S SO AWESOME THAT HE TALKED TO YOU!
GRRR, I'M SO JEALOUS!
THANK YOU
WELL SEE YOU
MMMMM
MMMMM
IT WAS MENTIONED IN THE FILE THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY PARENTS,
BUT FROM HIS DEMEANOR, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL

I GUESS HIM GROWING UP TO BE AS HE IS NOW MUST LIE IN HIS PERSONALITY
HE PROBABLY HAS NEVER TRULY HATED ANYONE NOR EVER LOOKED DOWN UPON HIMSELF
YOU'RE PRETTY STRAIT LACED! MOMMY'S BOY
ARE YOU AIMING FOR THE TOP SPOT AGAIN?
NO THAT'S NOT WHY I'M STUDYING
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME ANYMORE?


WELL YEAH. HE WASN'T SO NICE TO ME EITHER DURING MY FIRST DAY HERE. BUT NOTHING'S HAPPENED SINCE THEN
AND ON THAT DAY I DIDN'T TREAT HIM WITH THAT MUCH RESPECT EITHER
I'M COMING OFF AS KIND OF A JERK. HE'S THE ONE WHO INITIATED THE CONVERSATION
NO MATTER HOW HE TREATED ME, HE DID LET ME KNOW SO THAT I WOULDN'T BE LATE TO THE CAFETERIA.
HEY, FELIXIAN
NATALIE DID SAY THAT I SHOULDN'T FIGHT WITH OTHERS.
I DON'T WANT TO BE ACTING LIKE THIS AROUND SOMEONE WHO I SHARE A ROOM WITH.

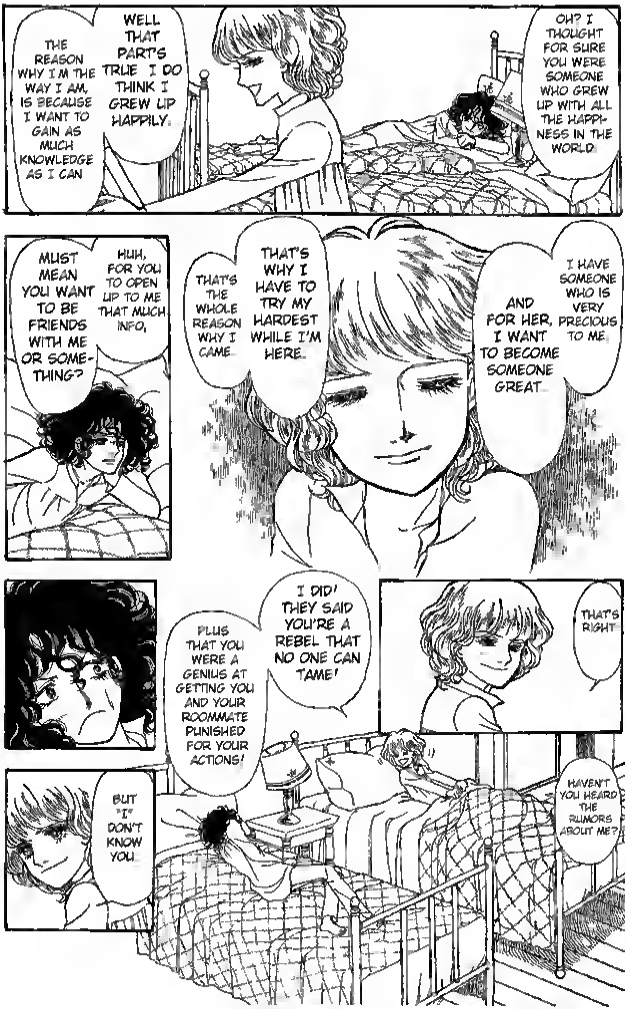
I CAN'T BECOME A POP'S LITTLE MAN EITHER
AND JUST FOR YOUR INFO, I'M NO MOMMY'S BOY. I CAN'T BE EVEN IF I WANTED TO.


THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO KNOW!
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I ASK YOU IF I CAN'T FIGURE OUT A PROBLEM?
I HEARD YOU AND EDWIN ARE ALWAYS VYING FOR THE TOP PLACE.

MOMMY'S BOY, WHY'RE YOU SO ARDENT?

HUH?

WHY?


THE REASON WHY I'M THE WAY I AM, IS BECAUSE I WANT TO GAIN AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AS I CAN
WELL THAT PART'S TRUE I DO THINK I GREW UP HAPPILY.
OH? I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU WERE SOMEONE WHO GREW UP WITH ALL THE HAPPINESS IN THE WORLD.
MUST MEAN YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH ME OR SOMETHING?
HUH. FOR YOU TO OPEN UP TO ME THAT MUCH INFO.
THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON WHY I CAME...
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO TRY MY HARDEST WHILE I'M HERE...
AND FOR HER, I WANT TO BECOME SOMEONE GREAT...
I HAVE SOMEONE WHO IS VERY PRECIOUS TO ME.
PLUS THAT YOU WERE A GENIUS AT GETTING YOU AND YOUR ROOMMATE PUNISHED FOR YOUR ACTIONS!
I DID! THEY SAID YOU'RE A REBEL THAT NO ONE CAN TAME!
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU...
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT ME?

I'M GOING TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS.
YEAH, BUT IF THERE'S EVEN A LITTLE BIT OF GOOD IN YOU, I KNOW I'D REGRET JUST TAKING THEIR WORD FOR IT.
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME. I'M JUST AS THEY DESCRIBE ME. YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ON THE FIRST DAY, DON'T YOU?
SO WHAT YOU WANT TO FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF WHAT KIND OF PERSON I AM?
I CAN'T HELP BUT OVERLAP HIM WITH JULIUS...
JUST WHEN I THINK HE'S GOING TO GO OFF ON ME, HE STARTS TREATING ME NICELY.
WHAT A NAIVE WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS
WHAT IS HE, AN ANGEL OR SOMETHING?
GOOD NIGHT
JULIUS, YOU ALWAYS TRAILED AFTER ME
IF ONLY I COULD HEAR YOUR LAUGHTER ONCE MORE...
JULIUS BACK THEN UNHAPPINESS WAS SOMETHING YOU HAD HARDLY EVER EXPERIENCED
STILL, I FELT HAPPINESS JUST WATCHING OVER YOU

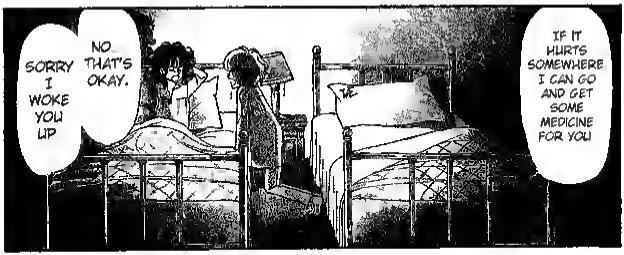
Uuuh... Uuuhh... Uu...
Ahhh!
Ah.. uu.. u..
FELHAN?
WHAT'S WRONG FELHAN?
DOES IT HURT SOMEWHERE?
CLICK
FELHAN!

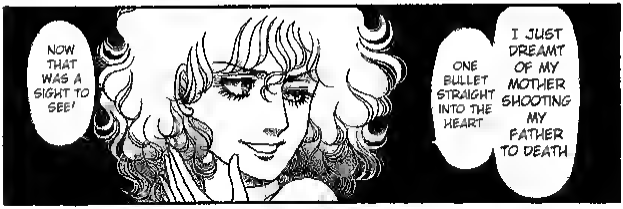
We hope you enjoyed this chapter
If you like this manga, please support the mangaka
by buying the original copy
- from fans to fans.

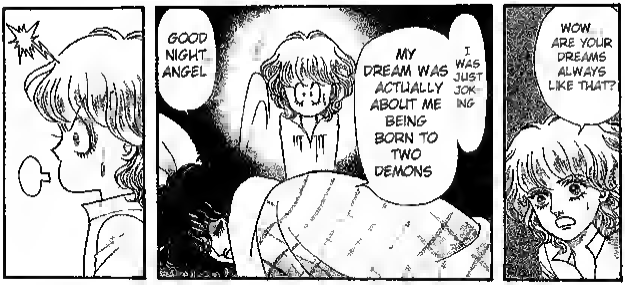
Next Week

Shoujo Scans
Credits
Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
Toxicstream
Cleaner
Az
Typesetter
Oceansportrait
QCer
Vally
Chapter 7 part B
Suna no Shiro

Ishouju
Whee22
Whee2
Whee2
Whee2
Felhan, what's wrong? You're drenched in sweat!
Are you sick?!
Huh ?
Oh, it's just you...
Jehias ..
"BIG BROTHER, ARE YOU SICK?"
"BIG BROTHER?"


SORRY I WOKE YOU UP
NO, THAT'S OKAY.
IF IT HURTS SOMEWHERE I CAN GO AND GET SOME MEDICINE FOR YOU


NOW THAT WAS A SIGHT TO SEE!
ONE BULLET STRAIGHT INTO THE HEART
I JUST DREAMT OF MY MOTHER SHOOTING MY FATHER TO DEATH


GOOD NIGHT, ANGEL
MY DREAM WAS ACTUALLY ABOUT ME BEING BORN TO TWO DEMONS
I WAS JUST JOKING
WOW, ARE YOUR DREAMS ALWAYS LIKE THAT?

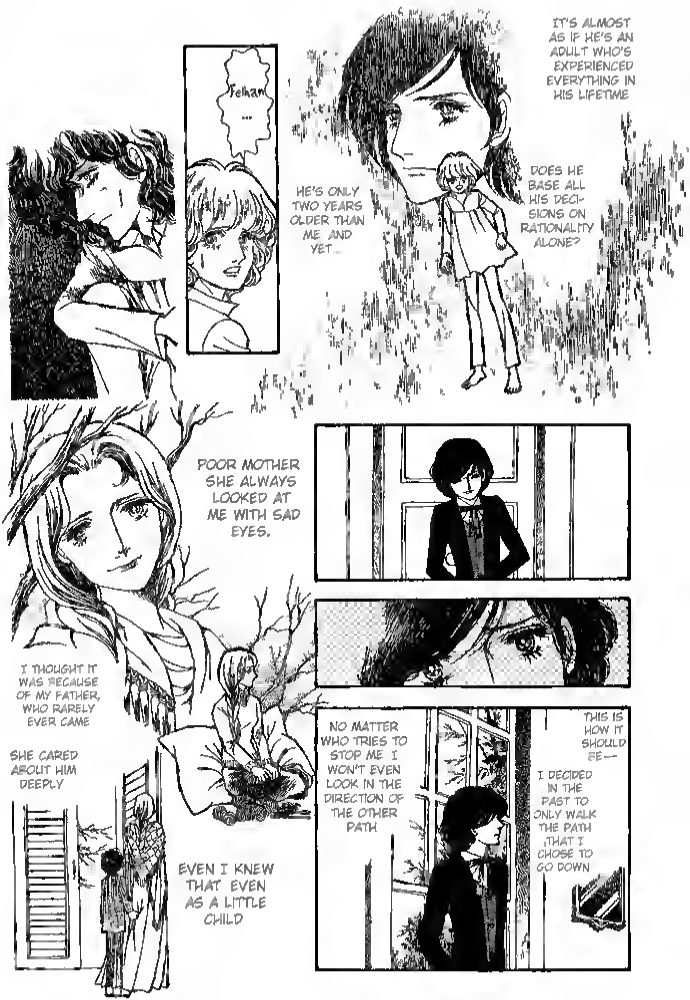
FELHAM ?
WOW, IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY TODAY!
WAKE UP FELHAM, AND LOOK OUTSIDE!
I'M TRYING TO SLEEP HERE
BE QUIET
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING FRANCIS
KNOCK KNOCK
YES ?
?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK OF YOU
Flinch

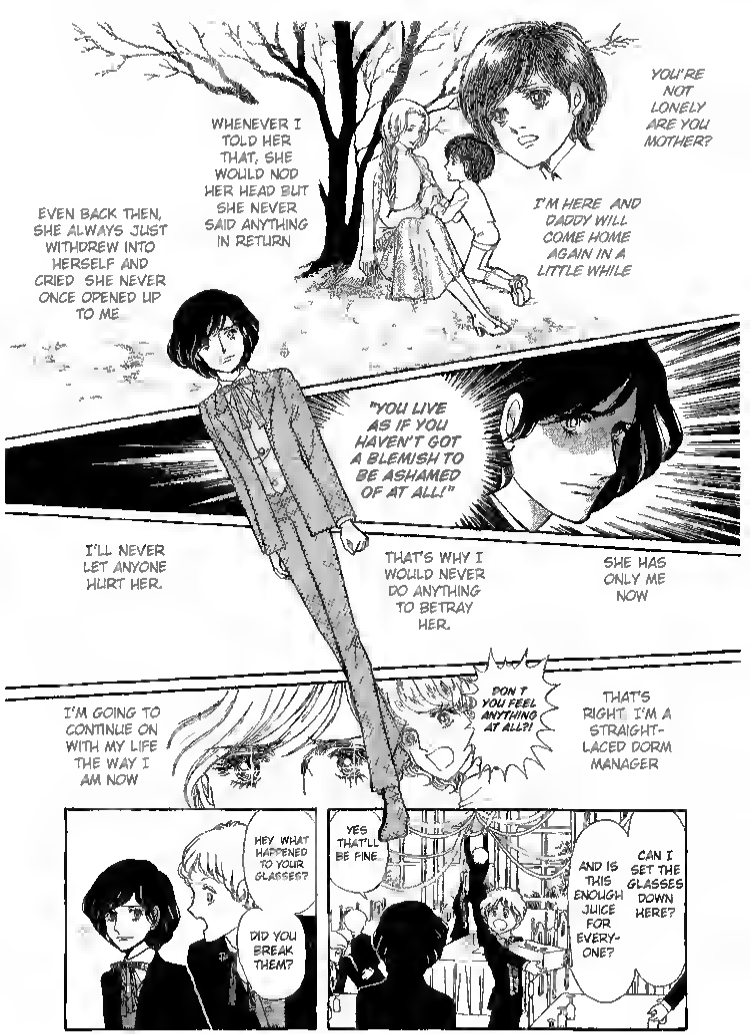
WHAT!?
YOU WANT ME TO REPRESENT ALL THE NEW STUDENTS AND GIVE A SPEECH AT TONIGHT'S WELCOMING PARTY?!
B-But..
I-I've never even spoken in front of that many people before!
ALL THE TEACHERS HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU THAT YOU'LL DO WELL, AND I AGREE.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT AS CHALLENGING AS YOU THINK
But still..
DO YOU MIND? I'M TRYING TO CATCH SOME Z'S.
IF YOU GUYS WANNA TALK, DO IT OUTSIDE
FELHAN, YOU ARE COMING TO THIS YEAR'S PARTY, AREN'T YOU?
YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO COME AS DOES EVERYONE ELSE
WHO WOULD WANT TO GO TO A BORING PARTY LIKE THAT?
EVEN IF YOU THINK THAT WAY, RULES ARE RULES.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME THE FIRST TIME?! I SAID BE QUIET!
DO YOU MAKE IT YOUR PERSONAL HOBBY TO GO AROUND WAKING PEOPLE UP WHEN THEY DON'T WANT TO WAKE UP?! YOU AND YOUR RULES, CUT ME SOME FRIGGIN' SLACK!

IT'S 7 O'CLOCK EVERYONE S SUPPOSED TO BE UP ALREADY
BE HONEST YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO TALK TO ME, DO YOU?
I'M SURPRISED AT HOW LONG YOU'VE MANAGED TO KEEP UP THIS TIME.
IT MUST BE TOUGH TO ACT THE PART OF THE PERFECT DORM KEEPER
YOU WITH YOUR STARCHED COLLAR.
YOU HAVE AN ENGLISH NAME, BUT YOU HAVE FRENCH BLOOD RUNNING IN YOUR VEINS
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU ACT AS IF YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN A BLEMISH TO BE ASHAMED OF AT ALL.
STOP IT FELHAN
MR. STRAIGHT-LACED DORM MANAGER
YOU'RE TRUSTED BY THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.
YOU DO NOTHING TO GO OFF TRACK

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING WORTH PROTECTING LIKE YOU!
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO BE AFRAID OF!
SA—
I'M NOT LIKE YOU! SO DON'T TRY TO PUSH YOUR IDEALS ONTO ME!
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO HAVE TO LOOK AT YOUR FACE!
SLAP!
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S CROSSED THE LINE!
ALL HE DID WAS REMIND YOU TO GO TO THE PARTY!!
FELHAN!

ONE SWING LEADS TO ONE REGRET.
DOING THAT WOULDN'T SOLVE ANYTHING
AREN'T YOU MAD AT ALL?!
B-BUT HE—
IT'S ALL RIGHT, FRANCIS
YOU SHOULD GET ONE GOOD PUNCH IN TOO!
I DON'T BELIEVE THE WAY TO RESOLVE VIOLENCE IS WITH VIOLENCE.
He insulted you even though you did nothing wrong!
B-But.... don't you feel... anything at all?!
I'LL REMIND YOU AGAIN. COME TO THE PARTY
B-but ...
WHY ...?
HOW CAN YOU ACT AS IF HIS WORDS MEANT NOTHING?!
IF IT WERE ME, I'D BE MAD. IT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYONE!


Telhan
...
IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE'S AN ADULT WHO'S EXPERIENCED EVERYTHING IN HIS LIFETIME
HE'S ONLY TWO YEARS OLDER THAN ME AND YET...
DOES HE BASE ALL HIS DECISIONS ON RATIONALITY ALONE?
POOR MOTHER SHE ALWAYS LOOKED AT ME WITH SAD EYES.
I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE OF MY FATHER, WHO RARELY EVER CAME
SHE CARED ABOUT HIM DEEPLY
EVEN I KNEW THAT EVEN AS A LITTLE CHILD
NO MATTER WHO TRIES TO STOP ME I WON'T EVEN LOOK IN THE DIRECTION OF THE OTHER PATH
THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE—
I DECIDED IN THE PAST TO ONLY WALK THE PATH THAT I CHOSE TO GO DOWN


YOU'RE NOT LONELY ARE YOU MOTHER?
I'M HERE AND DADDY WILL COME HOME AGAIN IN A LITTLE WHILE
WHENEVER I TOLD HER THAT, SHE WOULD NOD HER HEAD BUT SHE NEVER SAID ANYTHING IN RETURN
EVEN BACK THEN, SHE ALWAYS JUST WITHDREW INTO HERSELF AND CRIED SHE NEVER ONCE OPENED UP TO ME
"YOU LIVE AS IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A BLEMISH TO BE ASHAMED OF AT ALL!"
I'LL NEVER LET ANYONE HURT HER.
THAT'S WHY I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO BETRAY HER.
SHE HAS ONLY ME NOW
I'M GOING TO CONTINUE ON WITH MY LIFE THE WAY I AM NOW
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING AT ALL?!
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M A STRAIGHT-LACED DORM MANAGER
HEY WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR GLASSES?
DID YOU BREAK THEM?
YES THAT'LL BE FINE
AND IS THIS ENOUGH JUICE FOR EVERY-ONE?
CAN I SET THE GLASSES DOWN HERE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
IT SEEMS AS IF I'M THE FOOL IN THIS SITUATION!
EDWIN JUST UPS AND LEAVES AND FELHAN IS JUST CALM AND DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING!
I ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED THEM.
I BETTER GET A NEW PAIR SOON
FELHAN CLASHED WITH EDWIN THE OTHER DAY TOO
MAYBE IT'S A HOBBY OF THEIRS?
THAT'S RIGHT IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD ABOUT TWO PEOPLE WHO AREN'T FOND OF EACH OTHER!
IF YOU HAVE TIME, WHY NOT JOIN ME FOR SOME TEA?
THE PARTY WON'T BE UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON
WHAT'S WRONG, FRANCIS? YOUR FACE IS ALL FLUSHED
MR. LANBERRE!
—AND SO
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE UPSET ABOUT THIS SITUATION, IS THAT RIGHT?
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU

I AGREE WITH HIM THAT IN THAT CASE, IF HE HAD HIT FELHAN, IT WOULDN'T HAVE SOLVED ANYTHING
FRANCIS, IN THIS WORLD THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO HOLD MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF THINKING
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT THE ANSWER TO ALL PROBLEMS IS TO JUST UNLEASH EVERYTHING THAT YOU'RE FEELING ONTO ANOTHER PERSON
IT'S TRUE EDWIN'S NOT ONE TO HAVE HIS HEART ON HIS SLEEVES
I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
IT JUST MEANS THAT THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE OUT THERE
IS IT BECAUSE I'M STILL A KID THAT I THINK THIS WAY ?
AND IT SHAPES THE WAY HE WILL THINK AND LIVE
MANY THINGS HAPPEN TO A PERSON AS HE INTERACTS WITH OTHERS,
AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO
THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO ARE ABLE TO SHOW YOUR TRUE EMOTIONS TO OTHERS,
THEY WERE FRIENDS ?!?!
FELHAN WAS MUCH MORE SETTLED DOWN. AND HE WAS EVEN A MEMBER OF THE ART CLUB. HE WAS A VERY TALENTED PAINTER
THEY WERE GOOD-NATURED RIVALS
TWO YEARS AGO, THEY WERE VERY GOOD FRIENDS...

"MY LITTLE BROTHER DIED I CAN'T PAINT ANYMORE"
ONE DAY FELHAN CAME TO MY OFFICE
THOSE TWO... WERE FRIENDS?
I CAN'T PICTURE IT IN MY MIND AT ALL!
DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A LOOK? IT'S A WONDERFUL PAINTING
HE LOVED HIS BROTHER VERY MUCH. HE TALKED ABOUT HIM OFTEN
His little brother?
He looks like me...
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE DOES RESEMBLE YOU
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK
THAT YOU MIGHT BE THE ONE WHO MIGHT HELP HIM BECOME THE PERSON HE ONCE USED TO BE..
WITH THAT HONEST PERSONALITY OF YOURS
ME?

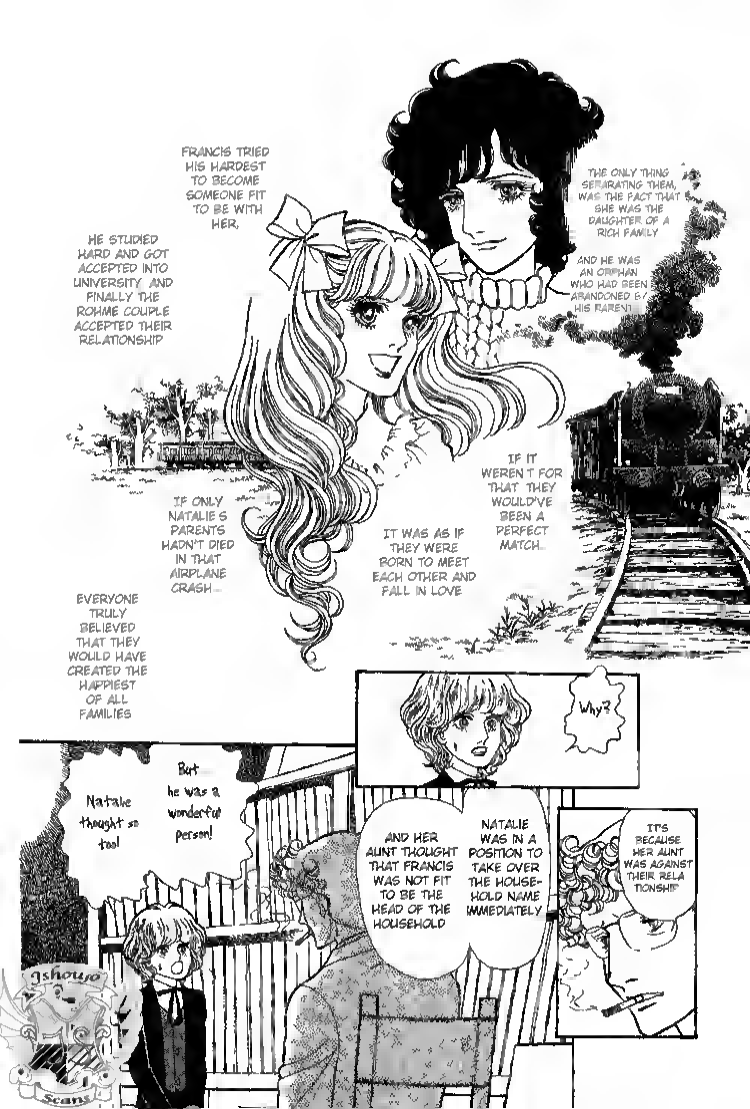
HAHA THIS MUST BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO SLIP OUT FOR A WHILE
THE PARTY ROOM IS BUSTLING ABOUT, AND IT'S AWFUL BUSY.
OH, IS THIS A TEA PARTY GOING ON, I SEE? DO YOU MIND IF I JOIN YOU TWO?
YES, YOU, FRANCIS
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE SEEING HIM AROUND ONE OF THESE DAYS
HE'S THE RESIDENT SCHOOL DOCTOR, MR ROGET ANTON.
DO I LOOK LIKE SOME-ONE YOU KNOW?
YOU FOOLED ME FOR A SECOND THERE
BUT YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF HIM
FRANCIS !!
HELLO MR ANTON
That's right, of course not... and you're blonde-haired too ...
?
T-The..
isn't possible
YES ?

Then he's alive...?
Oh... then you're Francis'...
YES, HIS NAME'S FRANCIS DEALIBERGE
I'VE BEEN A BIT CURIOUS EVER SINCE I SAW YOUR NAME ON THE STUDENT LIST
TELL ME IS YOUR FATHER'S NAME FRANCIS AS WELL?
DID YOU KNOW MY DADDY, MR. ANTON?!
I HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING!
COULD YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT HIM?!
WELL... IT'S TRUE THOUGH THAT HE OFTEN GOT THE TOP MARKS
YES DURING MY SCHOOL YEARS, I USED TO OFTEN COMPETE WITH HIM FOR THE TOP SPOT
RIGHT NOW, I'M LIVING WITH NATALIE
YES, HE PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS 4.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ? THEN...
I GOT JEALOUS AND I OFTEN GOT INTO FIGHTS WITH HIM OVER IT THINKING BACK TO IT NOW, IT'S A BIT EMBARRASSING
I WANTED TO BE HER FRIEND, BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS WITH FRANCIS
NATALIE ROHME WAS THE BEAUTY OF OUR TOWN.
NATALIE HUH? THAT BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES

SO, NATALIE MUST'VE FOUND FRANCIS, AND GAVE BIRTH TO YOU.
What...?
I HEARD THAT THEY TRIED TO KILL THEMSELVES BY JUMPING OFF A CLIFF. BUT NATALIE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED, SO I WAS WORRIED
SO FRANCIS WAS ALIVE AFTER WHAT HAPPENED
But Natalie never even mentioned a word of it to me...
Daddy and Natalie tried to kill themselves?
BUT DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY YOU WERE LIVING WITH HER...?
What!
I'm not Natalie's
What a coincidence! I'm sure that I have some in my room!
Ah, s-sure!
MR. ANTON, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE RUN OUT OF MILK. WOULD YOU MIND GETTING US SOME?
Then she adopted you...?
Ah...
WAIT !!

I-I don't know about that... It's as Natalie told you.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS—DID DADDY AND NATALIE LOVE EACH OTHER?!
If you'll let me go now, I'll go and get some milk—
T-That's right— they've known each other since they were little...
but Elaine said they grew up like siblings!
PLEASE TELL ME! DOES THAT MEAN DADDY AND NATALIE WERE ..
WHY SHE WAS THERE ON THAT ISLAND! NO ONE WILL TELL ME ANYTHING!
WHY NATALIE DECIDED TO TAKE ME IN! WHAT KIND OF CONNECTION SHE HAS TO ME!
PLEASE TELL ME! I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED IN THE BACK OF MY MIND
IT WOULD DO HIM NO GOOD TO KEEP HIDDEN THIS INFORMATION ANY LONGER.
WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM THE TRUTH?
I'm about to give in, Mr. Lanberre ...
and why I had to bury my pictures of her....
I want to know why she doesn't want to talk about my mommy
It has everything and yet nobody will to do with me, tell me anything

HAVE A SEAT, FRANCIS
IF YOU'RE NOT IN A MORE STABLE FRAME OF MIND, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL YOU ANYTHING...
YES
I'M SORRY, MR. ANTON...
WHAT I KNOW, IS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE WHOLE PICTURE
MY HOME-TOWN WAS A SMALL ONE OFF IN THE COUNTRY SIDE
EVERYONE KNEW WHEN SOMEONE'S DOG DIED OR IF A CHILD WAS BORN TO A HOUSEHOLD
FRANCIS WAS LEFT AT THE ROHME FAMILY'S DOORSTEPS ON THE DAY NATALIE WAS BORN. EVERYONE KNEW THAT THEY HAD ADOPTED HIM
THE ROHMES WERE THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE IN OUR TOWN AND NATALIE WAS THEIR ONLY CHILD
SHE WAS CUTE,
I COULD NEVER BEAT FRANCIS AT ANYTHING
AND FRANCIS WAS A KIND-HEARTED CHILD. THEY WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER---SO MUCH SO THAT I OFTEN GOT VERY JEALOUS
SO I OFTEN INSULTED HIM BY BRINGING UP HIS ORPHAN BACKGROUND


FRANCIS TRIED HIS HARDEST TO BECOME SOMEONE FIT TO BE WITH HER.
HE STUDIED HARD AND GOT ACCEPTED INTO UNIVERSITY AND FINALLY THE ROHME COUPLE ACCEPTED THEIR RELATIONSHIP
THE ONLY THING SEPARATING THEM, WAS THE FACT THAT SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A RICH FAMILY
AND HE WAS AN ORPHAN WHO HAD BEEN ABANDONED BY HIS PARENTS
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT THEY WOULD'VE BEEN A PERFECT MATCH..
IT WAS AS IF THEY WERE BORN TO MEET EACH OTHER AND FALL IN LOVE
IF ONLY NATALIE'S PARENTS HADN'T DIED IN THAT AIRPLANE CRASH..
EVERYONE TRULY BELIEVED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE CREATED THE HAPPIEST OF ALL FAMILIES
Why?
NATALIE WAS IN A POSITION TO TAKE OVER THE HOUSE-HOLD NAME IMMEDIATELY
AND HER AUNT THOUGHT THAT FRANCIS WAS NOT FIT TO BE THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD
IT'S BECAUSE HER AUNT WAS AGAINST THEIR RELATIONSHIP
But he was a wonderful person!
Natalie thought so too!
Ishoujo Scans

I'M NOT SURE IF IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED LUCKY OR UNLUCKY, BUT NATALIE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED
SHE TRIED TO KILL HERSELF MANY TIMES AFTERWARDS, BUT SHE NEVER MANAGED TO SUCCEED
THEY FELT LIKE THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN AWAY UNFORTUNATELY THEY WERE CAUGHT RIGHT AWAY
NATALIE'S AUNT WAS TRYING HER HARDEST TO SEARCH FOR SOMEONE TO SUCCEED THE FAMILY NAME
THIS WAS A LONG TIME AGO BACK THEN THEY WORRIED ABOUT THE FAMILY LINES MORE THAN THEY DO NOW
And then they tried to kill themselves
AND I WAS BORN?
THEN DADDY FORGOT EVERYTHING ABOUT HIS PAST AND MARRIED MOMMY
TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, EVERYONE THOUGHT FRANCIS HAD DIED A LONG TIME AGO
I HEARD AFTER A WHILE THAT SHE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL
THAT'S ALL THAT I KNOW
NATALIE
THEN WHAT ABOUT NATALIE?
"YOUR DADDY'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIS PAST."
Ah.
IT WAS SUCH A STRANGE STORY THAT I REMEMBER IT WELL
I REMEMBER MOMMY TELLING ME SOMETHING
If he loved Natalie so much, then why didn't he...
But why?

WHEN SHE FINALLY FOUND HIM
WE WERE THERE!
SHE KEPT FAITH THAT HE WAS ALIVE, AND SHE MUST'VE WAITED YEARS FOR MY DADDY.
AND WHEN SHE FINALLY FOUND HIM...
SHE CAME TO FIND HIM!
ON THAT DAY, SHE CAME TO TRY TO FIND HIM!
MY MOMMY AND I WERE THERE!
SWISH
FUNCH
FRANCIS

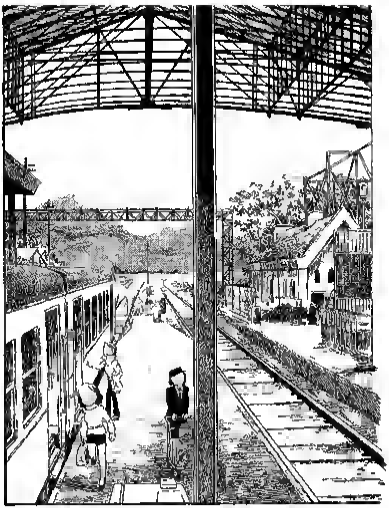
seeing me and my mommy...
What... must've been going through her mind...
I was the only one who had no idea...
From his point of view, it must be...
And I just blurted it all out without thinking
Oh no.... he didn't know anything?
I-I better be leaving now...
HE'S FRANCIS' CHILD
OF COURSE
ARE YOU SURE?
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY
IT JUST HAPPENED THAT THAT TIME CAME NOW
HE WOULD'VE FOUND OUT SOONER OR LATER

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT YOU MUST FIND YOUR OWN RESOLUTIONS FOR.
BUT I WANT YOU TO KEEP THIS IN MIND
FRANCIS
If I were her, I could never have—
that Natalie would take him in.
B-But it's still hard to believe
SHE PROBABLY FELT THAT SHE HAD NO CHOICE.
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.
THAT'S RIGHT ...
NO MATTER WHAT
No matter what?
YOU MUST NEVER FEEL AS IF YOU WERE BETTER OFF NOT BEING BORN
FOR LIFE TO BE GIVEN ON EARTH, IT IS A VERY COMPLEX UNDER-TAKING.
YOU WERE BORN INTO THIS WORLD BECAUSE YOU WERE MEANT TO BE BORN
IS HE RIGHT THOUGH?
IF I HADN'T BEEN BORN NATALIE MIGHT'VE NOT HAD TO SUFFER
IS HE REALLY RIGHT?

Alex
WHAT'S UP, YOU LOOK PALE?
DID SOMEONE DIE OR WHAT?
I..
should've never been born....
NO, I'M NOT...
ARE YOU... OKAY WITH FEELING THE WAY YOU DO?
BUT I'M STILL HERE, ALIVE AS EVER THERE'S NOT MUCH YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU,
Huh ...?
I FEEL THAT WAY TOO
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE

FRANCIS SAID HE HAS A HEADACHE
THE PARTY'S ABOUT TO START!
FRANCIS! FRANCIS!
KNOCK KNOCK
I'LL GO GET SOME MEDICINE FOR HIM THEN
IS HE OKAY?
DON'T BOTHER
YOUR SCREECHY VOICE IS JUST GOING TO MAKE THINGS WORSE
WAIT,
ARE YOU EVEN GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A SPEECH, THE WAY YOU ARE NOW?
I... better?
YOU'RE REALLY ANNOYING YOU KNOW THAT?
THEN COME WITH ME.

Why



GO AND SEE THAT PERSON
YOU HAVE SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU, RIGHT?
THAT'S THE KIND OF STUFF YOU SHOULD HAVE A GOOD TALK OVER WITH THE FOLKS AT HOME

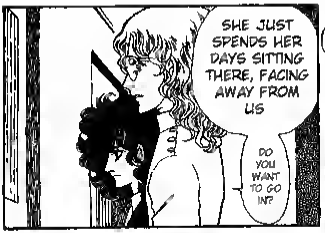
I KNOW THAT...
HE'S A GOOD TEACHER!

THAT OLD GEEZER...
MR. LANDERRE HE SHOWED ME YOUR PAINTING

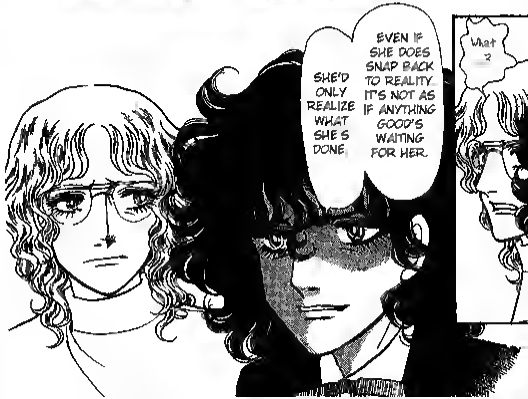
AS IF YOU WANT TO CRY, BUT CAN'T...
YOU LOOK

WHO TOLD YOU?!
IS IT BECAUSE I REMIND YOU OF YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?
THANK YOU. YOU'RE REALLY KIND, YOU KNOW THAT?

BUT HOW COULD I HAVE DONE NOTHING SEEING HIM LIKE THAT?
AND PLUS, HE REMINDS ME SO MUCH OF JULIUS
HUH IT'S NOT LIKE ME,
TO WORRY ABOUT OTHERS
WELL WELL FELIXIAN
CLANK CLANK
NOTHING'S BEEN OUT OF THE ORDINARY SHE TALKS SOMETIMES,
BUT IT'S HARD TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT SHE'S SAYING

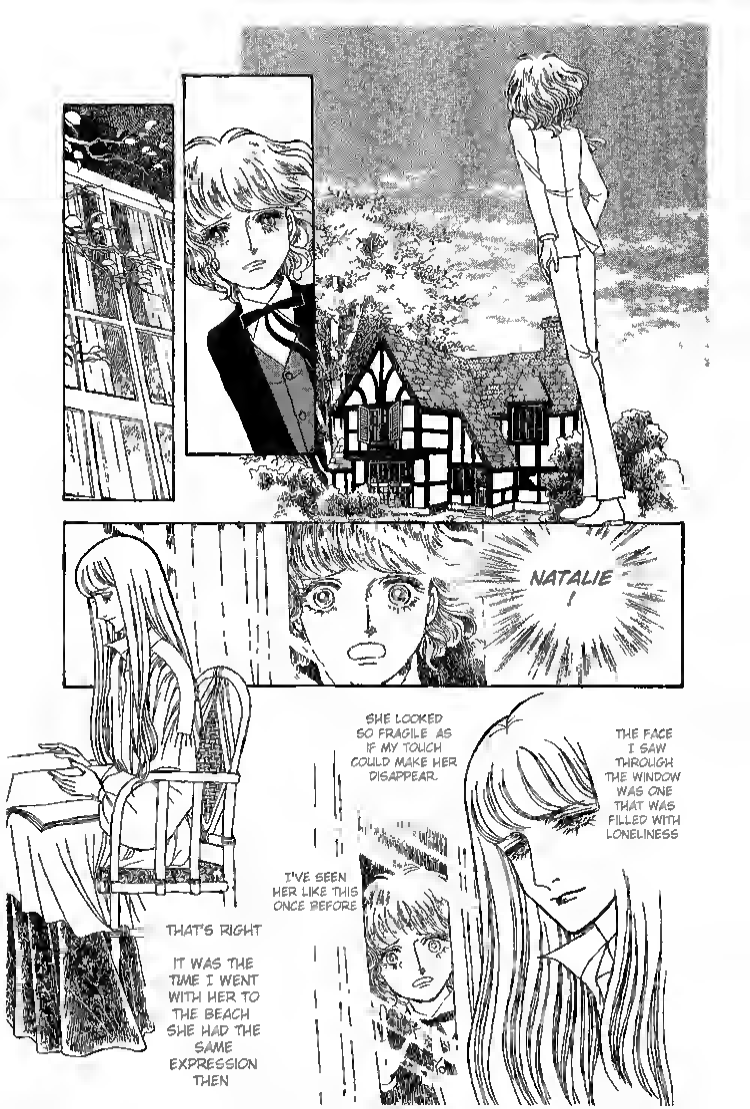

SHE JUST SPENDS HER DAYS SITTING THERE, FACING AWAY FROM US
DO YOU WANT TO GO IN?

WE'RE WAITING TO SEE IF IT HAS ANY EFFECT.
WE RE TRYING OUT A NEW DRUG TREATMENT.

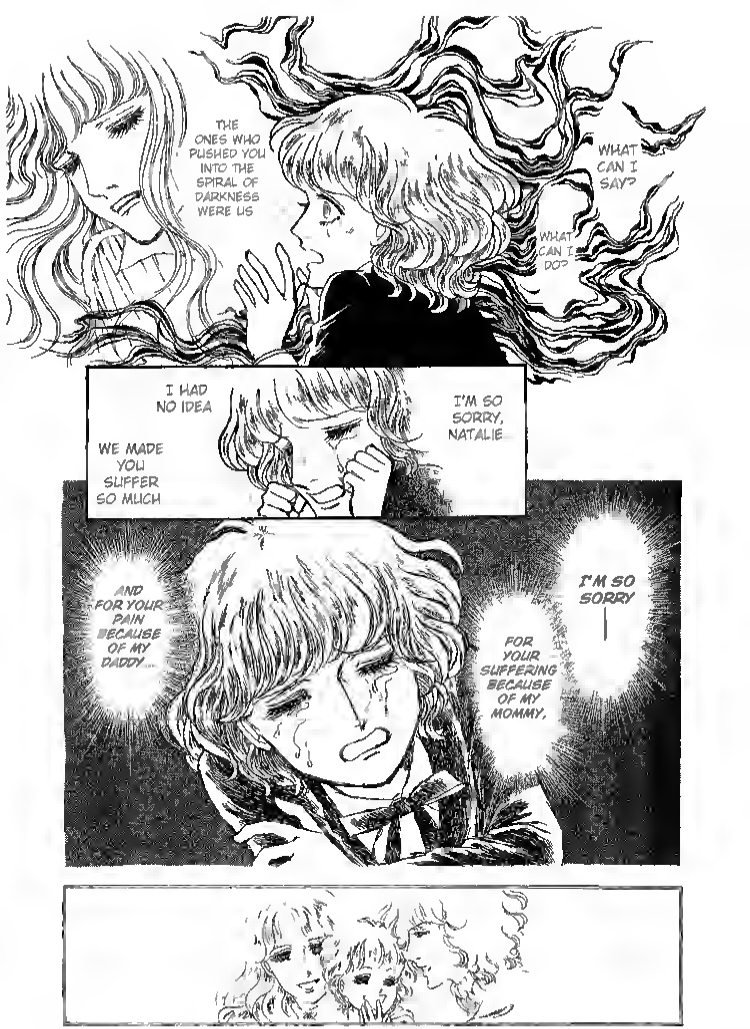

SHE'D ONLY REALIZE WHAT SHE S DONE.
EVEN IF SHE DOES SNAP BACK TO REALITY. IT'S NOT AS IF ANYTHING GOOD'S WAITING FOR HER.

What ?
IT'S BETTER IF SHE DOESN'T GET BETTER

I FINALLY REALIZED
THE REASON FOR NATALIE'S SADNESS, AND WHY THERE WERE TIMES SHE TREATED ME THE WAY SHE DID WHEN I WAS A CHILD
CLANG
CLING
CLANG
CLING...
THIS HAIR
MY MOMMY HAD BLONDE HAIR TOO...
EVERY TIME SHE LOOKED AT ME SHE MUST'VE REMEMBERED AND SUFFERED,
WITH A FACE THAT LOOKED JUST LIKE MY DADDY?
HAVING TO SEE MY MOMMY'S BLONDE HAIR,
WHAT MUST SHE HAVE THOUGHT EVERY TIME SHE LOOKED AT MY HAIR?
WHAT CAN I SAY TO HER
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY WHEN I SEE NATALIE?
ALL HER SUFFERING STEMMED FROM MY MOMMY AND ME
SO STOP WANTING YOUR MOTHER FROM ME!
I CAN'T BE YOUR MOTHER! I'M MY OWN PERSON!
IT MUST BE MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT
HOW MANY TIMES DID I UNKNOWINGLY HURT NATALIE?


NATALIE
THE FACE I SAW THROUGH THE WINDOW WAS ONE THAT WAS FILLED WITH LONELINESS
SHE LOOKED SO FRAGILE AS IF MY TOUCH COULD MAKE HER DISAPPEAR
I'VE SEEN HER LIKE THIS ONCE BEFORE
THAT'S RIGHT
IT WAS THE TIME I WENT WITH HER TO THE BEACH SHE HAD THE SAME EXPRESSION THEN

Ishouso
Scans
"PERHAPS LIFE IS LIKE BUILDING A SAND CASTLE
NO MATTER HOW MUCH EFFORT YOU PUT INTO BUILDING IT, BEFORE YOU REALIZE IT... THE WAVES HAVE SWEPT IT AWAY
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME REPETITION..."
I WONDER IF ALL PEOPLE GROW OLD THAT WAY?
SHE LIVES HER DAYS HERE
WITH THAT KIND OF EXPRESSION ON HER FACE ?
"IT WAS AS IF THEY WERE BORN TO MEET AND FALL IN LOVE"
MY DADDY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE BY HER SIDE,
AND SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE LIVED HER DAYS WITH ALL THE HAPPINESS IN THE WORLD...
MY MOMMY AND I TOOK THAT AWAY FROM HER...
WE TOOK HER HAPPINESS, EVERYTHING, AWAY—


THE ONES WHO PUSHED YOU INTO THE SPIRAL OF DARKNESS WERE US
WHAT CAN I SAY?
WHAT CAN I DO?
I HAD NO IDEA
I'M SO SORRY, NATALIE
WE MADE YOU SUFFER SO MUCH
AND FOR YOUR PAIN BECAUSE OF MY DADDY...
FOR YOUR SUFFERING BECAUSE OF MY MOMMY,
I'M SO SORRY